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CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

FRONT PAGE

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Palestinian Affairs

'Ashrawi Calls For U.S. Neutrality *[Algiers VOP]* 2
Faysal al-Husayni on Hamas-Fatah Reconciliation *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 8 Jul]* 2
Fatah Denies Knowledge of Hamas Joint Statement *[Amman AL-DUSTUR 10 Jul]* 2
Hamas Warned To Halt 'Attacks,' 'Excesses' *[Algiers VOP]* 2
'Abd-al-Shafi Comments on Gaza Strip Violence 3
Expresses 'Concern,' 'Sorrow' *[Jerusalem AL-FAJR 9 Jul]* 3
Urges Fatah, Hamas Restraint *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 7 Jul]* 3
Reconciliation Committee Urges End to Violence *[Algiers VOP]* 3
'Arafat, PLO Leaders To Review Talks Strategy *[MENA]* 4
Rabin Called 'Ambiguous' in Commitment to Peace *[London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI 7 Jul]* 4

South Asian Regional Affairs

SAARC Council of Ministers Meets in Colombo 5
Standing Committee Meeting Ends *[Colombo International]* 5
Promotion of Regional Trade Discussed *[Colombo International]* 5
Pakistani, Indian Ministers Confer *[Islamabad Radio]* 5

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Prime Minister Begins Consultations on Government *[Algiers Radio]* 6
Boudiaf Case Referred to Military Court *[Algiers Radio]* 6
Boumediennne Group Welcomes Kafi Appointment *[Algiers Radio]* 6

Egypt

Minister Defends Media Handling of Extremism *[ROSE AL-YUSUF 6 Jul]* 6
Lack of Representation at League Meeting Assailed *[AL-JUMHURIYAH 6 Jul]* 7
Foreign Minister Discusses Regional Issues 7
Relations With Iran Improving *[London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI 7 Jul]* 7
Comments on G-7 Summit *[MENA]* 8
Interior Minister Addresses Police Graduates *[MENA]* 8
Coptic Pope Denounces All Forms of 'Terrorism' *[MENA]* 8
Ministers Depart for British Investment Meeting *[MENA]* 9
Kuwaiti Minister Meets With Prime Minister *[MENA]* 9
Cypriot Justice Minister Departs; Accord Signed *[MENA]* 9
Withdrawal From Lebanon Will Influence Peace *[Cairo Radio]* 9
Iran, Hizballah Praise of Boudiaf Death Noted *[MENA]* 9

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Discusses Anti-Terrorist Stance *[JANA]* 10
Efforts Toward Arab Unity Discussed *[JANA]* 10
Lack of Unity Detailed *[JANA]* 11

Morocco

King Hassan's Speech Views Coming Elections *[Rabat TV]* 12
New 'Neutral' Government Expected in 3 Days *[MENA]* 13
Minister on Preparations for Upcoming Elections *[MAP]* 14

IRAQ

Barzan al-Tikriti on Redrawing Gulf Borders *[AL-JUMHURIYAH 7 Jul]* 15
Spokesman Denies U.S. 'Lies' About Coup *[INA]* 19
Assembly 'Strongly Regrets' Turkish Bill *[INA]* 20
Further on Situation of UN Inspection Team 20
'Protest Marches' Staged at Ministry *[INA]* 20
Minister on 'Provocative' Action *[Baghdad Radio]* 21
Saddam Receives Greetings From Yasir 'Arafat *[Baghdad Radio]* 21
Leader of Jordanian Trade Federation Received *[INA]* 21
Trade Federation Affirms Support *[Baghdad Radio]* 22
'Mounting Tension' Reported in Ties With Jordan *[Voice of the Revolution]* 22
Saddam Celebrates With Salah-al-Din Villagers *[Baghdad Radio]* 22

ISRAEL

Rabin Informs Officials of Government Formation *[Jerusalem Radio]* 23
Rabin, Meretz Leader View Coalition Agreement *[Jerusalem TV]* 23
Meretz Appointees to Ministries *[Jerusalem Radio]* 23
Labor-Meretz Coalition Agreement *[DAVAR 10 Jul]* 24
SHAS Joins Coalition; Total of 62 Seats *[Jerusalem Radio]* 24
Labor-SHAS Coalition Agreement *[DAVAR 10 Jul]* 25
Hamas, Fatah Agree on 'Temporary Truce' in Gaza *[Jerusalem Radio]* 26
Gaza Clash To Affect Delegation Composition *[Jerusalem Radio]* 26
Civil Rights Group Cites Progress, Challenges *[HA'ARETZ 7 Jul]* 26

JORDAN

AL-AHRAM Report Called 'Cheap Intrigue' *[SAWT AL-SHA'B 9 Jul]* 28
Kuwaiti Embassy Accused of Distributing Leaflets *[Jerusalem TV]* 28

LEBANON

Nasrallah Urges Adherence to Jihad, Resistance *[Beirut Radio]* 29
Fadlallah Criticizes Political Arguments *[VOL]* 29
Buwayz Interviewed on Peace, Israeli Attacks *[MENA]* 29
Trade Relations Discussed With Iranian Charge *[Beirut Radio]* 30
Chamber Speaker Postpones Election Bill Debate *[Beirut Radio]* 30

SYRIA

Omani Minister Meets With Al-Asad, Khaddam *[Damascus Radio]* 31
Vice President Receives PNSF Delegation *[Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio]* 31
Paper Views Helsinki Summit, 'Zionism' Threat *[Damascus Radio]* 31

SOUTH ASIA

India

Defense Official on Missile Production Program *[Delhi TV]* 32
German Official Discusses Chemical Weapons Ban *[Delhi Radio]* 32
'Second Generation' Insat 2A Satellite Launched *[Delhi Radio]* 32
Commerce Minister Resigns After Securities Probe *[Delhi Radio]* 32
Committee Concerned Over Ayodhya Construction *[Delhi Radio]* 32
Missing Diplomat Found in Himachal Pradesh *[Delhi Radio]* 33

Acute Shortage of Defense Spare Parts Discussed 33
Part I *[INDIAN EXPRESS 21 Jun]* 33
Part II *[INDIAN EXPRESS 22 Jun]* 34
Editorial on Shortage of Defense Spare Parts *[INDIAN EXPRESS 25 Jun]* 35

Iran

Israeli 'Inability' To Control Intifadah Noted *[Tehran International]* 35
SAIRI Warns of Attempts To Destroy Iraq *[Tehran TV]* 36
Iraqi Refugees Leave Under UN Supervision *[IRNA]* 36
Postal Services With Iraq Resumed After 12 Years *[IRNA]* 36
'Martial Law' in Javanrud; Curfew Imposed *[Voice of Kordestan]* 37
Opposition Group Executes 3 Regime 'Spies' *[Voice of Kordestan]* 37
Moscow Accused of Weakening CIS States *[IRNA]* 37
Editorial on Afghan Threat, Unified Islamic Bloc *[IRNA]* 37
Afghanistan Applies for Membership in ECO *[IRNA]* 38
New Cuban, Vatican Envoys Present Credentials *[IRNA]* 38
Governor General Appointed for Renamed Province *[Tehran Radio]* 38
Single-Rate Foreign Currency for Exports Studied *[IRNA]* 38
Single-Rate Not Solution *[IRNA]* 39
RESALAT Reports 16 Jun Majles Session *[17 Jun]* 39

Pakistan

Germay To Finance 'Important Projects' *[Islamabad TV]* 43
Multiple Cooperation Pact Signed With Uzbekistan *[Islamabad Radio]* 43
Army Spokesman on 'Operation Cleanup' in Sindh *[Islamabad TV]* 43
Sharif Pledges Aid to New Afghan Prime Minister *[Islamabad Radio]* 44

Iraq

The Iraqi National Assembly issued a statement saying it "strongly regrets" the Turkish Grand National Assembly's endorsement of a bill submitted by the Turkish National Security Council that proposes the extension of the presence of the "U.S.-Atlantic Zionist alliance forces" in southeastern Turkey. An official spokesman denied the reports of a coup attempt against Saddam Husayn last week, claiming that the "news fabricators in the U.S. Administration are fabricating a new story every day," INA reported.

Palestinian Affairs

Algiers radio reports that Fatah, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Arab Liberation Front, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and the Palestinian People's Party issued a statement warning Hamas "to stop all the attacks and excesses and to stop any practices that might fan the fire of the conflict and escalate the tension." According to Amman AL-DUSTUR, Najib al-Ahmad, director of the Palestinian president's office in Amman, said that the Fatah leadership had no knowledge of a statement issued in the name of Fatah and Hamas yesterday. Algiers Radio also reports a statement by Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, urging the United States "to keep its neutral stance" as an arbiter in the process of the search for peace in the Middle East.

Israel

Yitzhaq Rabin informed President Herzog and the speaker of the Knesset that he had "succeeded in forming a government," Jerusalem radio announced, adding that Labor's coalition with Meretz and the Torah Observing Sephardim parties "will command at the very least 62 seats in the Knesset." In Gaza, Hamas and Fatah agreed to a "temporary truce," Jerusalem radio reported, noting that violence continues as the two sides try to "hammer out a pact."

Iran

A Tehran International commentary notes that the Palestinians' uprising is now in its 57th month and cites Israel's "inability" to control the intifadah. Despite some Arab optimism over Rabin's victory, the commentary states that Rabin will continue the policy of "confining the defenseless Palestinian people." Rabin is cited as saying that "those who think we will not adopt the iron fist policy towards Palestinians are absolutely mistaken."

Palestinian Affairs

'Ashrawi Calls For U.S. Neutrality

LD0907181292 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 9 Jul 92

[Text] Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, yesterday urged the United States to keep its neutral stance as an arbiter in the process of the search for peace in the Middle East. She added that Washington showed it can do this when it rejected Israel's request for loan guarantees as long as building settlements in occupied territories was not halted. Dr. 'Ashrawi pointedly asserted that it has not yet occurred to Palestinians to agree with Shamir's distinction between political settlements and strategic settlements.

She added that all settlements are not legal, and that the Israeli Labor government is not the one that would fulfill the Palestinians dreams. She, however, expressed hope that the Likud's departure will open the door for serious negotiations. She also added that the PLO will eventually be accepted as a genuine negotiator at the talks on behalf of the Palestinians.

Faysal al-Husayni on Hamas-Fatah Reconciliation

PM0907153692 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 8 Jul 92 pp 1, 4

['Abd-al-Jabbar 'Adwan report: "Faysal al-Husayni Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Reconciliation Efforts Continuing"]

[Excerpts] London—Despite the signing of an agreement between Fatah and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] supporters in Khan Yunus the evening before last, as a prelude to stopping armed clashes between the two sides, until midday yesterday (Tuesday) the Gaza Strip was still witnessing violations of the agreement. A state of deep outrage and distress prevailed among popular circles in the strip as a result of that bloody conflict. [passage omitted]

Faysal al-Husayni, chairman of the Higher Advisory Committee for the negotiations, said in a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT about the dispute: "This dispute must be resolved democratically, without recourse to violence or weapons." Al-Husayni added: "Efforts have been under way for a long time to end the unreasonable and undesirable conditions resulting from the vestiges of the problem between Fatah and Hamas. Regrettably, whenever we notice that those who introduce themselves as Hamas representatives or spokesmen promise something and agree on certain points, other parties from within Hamas itself dissociate themselves from what was agreed."

Al-Husayni said that he believed that this "is attributable to one of two possibilities: The first is the existence of a central organizational problem in Hamas. The second is the existence of a premeditated plan to strain conditions. However, I believe that the first possibility is probable. Anyhow, anyone who has the ability to launch such attacks should aim them against the occupation, and we will support him."

After the agreement was signed clashes between the two sides continued throughout the strip from Monday night to midday yesterday." [passage omitted]

Fatah Denies Knowledge of Hamas Joint Statement

JN1007083192 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 10 Jul 92 p 1

[Text] Amman (AL-DUSTUR)—Mr. Najib al-Ahmad, "Abu-Munir," director of the Palestinian president's office in Amman, has said that the Fatah leadership has no knowledge about a statement issued in the names of Fatah and Hamas yesterday. Mr. al-Ahmad said that a statement on the Gaza dispute will soon be issued.

Hamas Warned To Halt 'Attacks,' 'Excesses'

LD0907193392 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 9 Jul 92

["Full text" of statement issued "yesterday" by Fatah, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Arab Liberation Front, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and the Palestinian People's Party in the occupied territories]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. For the scum disappears like froth cast out; while that which is for the good of mankind remains on earth. [Koranic verse] Thus God set forth parables. God has spoken the truth.

O masses of our heroic people: Under these circumstances during which the forces of evil and aggression are amassing against the future of our people and against our people's efforts for liberation and establishing the independent Palestinian state—efforts requiring the mobilization of all resources and the emphasis that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of our Palestinian people—Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] comes out every now and then with fabricated problems with detachments of the PLO, the last of which was the current conflict between the Palestinian National Liberation Movement, Fatah, and Hamas under weak pretexts and justifications that are not based on any evidence.

O masses of the intifadah, we, the patriotic forces under the wing of the PLO, as we emphasize the unity of our people, we ask Hamas to stop all the attacks and excesses and to stop any practices that might fan the fire of the conflict and escalate the tension, to give a chance to those of weight and accurate vision of the interests of our people, and to put the public interest before narrow sectarian interests that contradict the interests of the masses.

As we emphasize that violating or attacking any element of any detachment or any individual of the sons of our honorable people is an aggression against the PLO—as

the PLO always works towards overcoming and going beyond the conflicts between the sons of the one people so that the gun remains directed against the Zionist enemy and its accomplices—the PLO emphasizes the necessity of working for the national interests of our people. However, it will not allow the continuation of the current situation, which is aimed at dividing the Palestinian mainstream. The PLO will not stand still. It will strike with an iron fist, united as one man, anyone who would contemplate playing with the destiny, achievements, or interests of our steadfast Palestinian people.

We emphasize the unity of our people and our permanent and continuous commitment and support to the PLO, our sole legitimate representative. We are declaring clearly and explicitly that we are asking all the honest men of our people to reply frankly: Who has caused the problems? Who insists on continuing them? We say: Ask all those who have participated, with our gratitude, in exerting the mediation efforts. You will find the full answer with them.

O masses of confrontation, we thank you for your brave stand by the right represented by the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of our Palestinian people. This is your permanent principled stance.

May God guide your steps in your support for the right and in defending it. May the glory, all the glory, be for our pure martyrs. May shame and disgrace be for the traitors and drop outs. Long live the PLO as a symbol and materialization of our struggle and as the sole legitimate representative of our people. Long live the blessed intifadah of our people. With God's help we will be victorious.

[Signed] The Palestinian National Liberation Movement, Fatah
Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine
Arab Liberation Front
Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine
Palestinian People's Party

'Abd-al-Shafi Comments on Gaza Strip Violence

Expresses 'Concern,' 'Sorrow'

TA0907154492 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 9 Jul 92 p 1

[Statement by the National Reconciliation Committee issued in Gaza on 9 July]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Statement to the Gaza Strip residents:

We, the undersigned, are overcome with concern and sorrow over the acts of violence taking place in the Gaza Strip, in which Palestinians are drawing their weapons against each other at a time when they desperately need to close ranks, unite, and defend their entity and destiny. Since morning we have been in touch with the parties concerned to study ways of defusing the situation and establishing a calm atmosphere that would make it possible to address the roots of the problem and to reach arrangements and agreements that will prevent the repetition of those tragic incidents.

Denouncing and condemning the acts of violence, and in the belief that those acts have no moral, national, or religious justification, we call on the two sides in the conflict immediately and unconditionally to stop resorting to violence. We shall begin at once to hold continuous and open meetings with the parties to the conflict in order to eliminate the roots of the disagreement and restore unity in the ranks.

[Signed] Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, on behalf of the National Reconciliation Committee

[Dated] 9 July 1992

Urges Fatah, Hamas Restraint

PM0907111092 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 7 Jul 92 p 1

['Abd-al-Jabbar 'Adwan report: "Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Situation Very Serious"]

[Excerpts] London—The situation in the occupied Gaza Strip yesterday indicated a serious explosion between Fatah and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] supporters. The serious developments of the dispute and the severity of the language of threats exchanged between the two sides for the past two weeks reached a point yesterday which brought the strip to the verge of civil war. This prompted Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian negotiating delegation, to warn in a telephone statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that "conditions could get out of control at any moment. I have been following the situation closely since my return from Washington two days ago." [passage omitted]

Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi expressed his fears regarding the seriousness of the situation. He said that he wanted to address an appeal to both sides through AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, because what is happening is very serious, and there is no single reason for an armed Palestinian-Palestinian conflict at a very difficult time in which we are surrounded by dangers. So I appeal to both sides to adopt the spirit of responsibility required in the circumstances which we are experiencing, which demand the utmost self-restraint." [passage omitted]

Reconciliation Committee Urges End to Violence

LD0907191892 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 9 Jul 92

[Text] The National Reconciliation Committee, headed by Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, issued a statement last night in which it condemned and denounced acts of violence. It called on conflicting parties to cease immediately and unconditionally the use of violence.

The statement indicated that the reconciliation committee had set out since yesterday to contact the parties in question to find a way to defuse the situation, provide a calm atmosphere that would help address the roots of the problem, and reach arrangements and agreements that would prevent the reoccurrence of these tragic incidents.

'Arafat, PLO Leaders To Review Talks Strategy

NC1007094792 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0826 GMT 10 Jul 92

[Text] Cairo, 10 Jul (MENA)—Official Palestinian sources in Cairo have told MENA that Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat will chair a meeting of the Palestinian leadership in Tunis on 20 July to discuss Palestinian strategy for the next stage of peace negotiations in light of Yitzhaq Rabin's electoral success. PLO Executive Committee members, the secretaries general of Palestinian factions that are part of the PLO, and members of the Palestine National Council's Presidium will attend the meeting.

The sources expect the next round of negotiations to be held in Rome in August.

Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat is expected to arrive in Cairo today or tomorrow, Saturday, to hold consultations with President Husni Mubarak about the next stage of the Middle East peace process.

During his Cairo visit, 'Arafat will also attend the 15th meeting of the Palestinian Higher Council for Education, Culture, and Science, which is due to begin tomorrow. The council, which is chaired by Ahmad Sidqi al-Dajani and comprises a group of Palestinian experts, will discuss the Palestinian national education curriculum in the coming stage, higher education issues in the occupied territories, and the conditions of Palestinian students abroad.

Rabin Called 'Ambiguous' in Commitment to Peace

PM1007082492 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 7 Jul 92 p 4

[Interview with PLO Executive Committee Member Sulayman al-Najjab by unidentified correspondent in Tunis; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Correspondent] What do you think of the Israeli election results?

[Al-Najjab] The most important result of these elections was the fall of Shamir's government and his clear and categorical anti-peace policy. This is an important factor showing the trend of the changes in Israeli society, which is beginning to realize that there is no future for Shamir's policy of annexation, murder, and constant aggression. The Labor Party's victory, however, has not brought with it a clear enough commitment to peace and to work for peace. Rabin's policy remains ambiguous about what kind of peace it is committed to.

[Correspondent] In what ways is it ambiguous?

[Al-Najjab] It is true that in his election program he mentioned regional concessions, but he did not couple that with a frank commitment to implementing the Security Council resolution calling for withdrawal from the territories occupied in 1967. He also insists on excluding Jerusalem and regards the decision to annex it to Israel as irrevocable and will continue to build settlements there. Now he does not mention what he said in his election program about freezing the settlements for a year and concentrates instead on dividing them between political and security settlements, and he insists on continuing with the security settlements. We do not know who gave him the right to make such divisions in a settlement-building process which itself violates international legitimacy.

When Rabin talks about the powers of the transitional government, he only talks about the powers that he intends to deny that government, namely, security powers, foreign relations powers, and control of the settlements. He does not say what he intends to give that transitional authority.

[Correspondent] Does that ambiguity not leave some room for negotiation on the issues mentioned?

[Al-Najjab] Yes, that is possible, but what we dislike about those who are too optimistic about Rabin's success is that they do not try realistically to see the limits of these ambiguous statements of Rabin. [passage omitted]

What is important, as far as we are concerned, is that we maintain our commitment to the peace process and our readiness to resume the negotiations, as well as our interest in its success, while at the same time emphasizing our firm insistence on our national rights and the objectives for which we joined the peace process and which are in full harmony with UN resolutions.

[Correspondent] In his recent statements, Rabin has focused on achieving progress on the issue of Palestinian autonomy, but he regards progress in the negotiations with Syria, Jordan, and Lebanon as unlikely. What is your comment on that?

[Al-Najjab] This clearly shows that Rabin wants to single us out and to isolate us from our Arab brothers. The accusations he makes against the fraternal states participating in the negotiations are false. They are all taking part in the process and have expressed a commitment to see the process through in accordance with the UN resolutions on which these negotiations are based.

I do not consider it unlikely that Rabin will make the same accusations against us when he discovers that we, like the others, insist on international legitimacy.

This approach of Rabin's reaffirms yet again the paramount importance of coordination among the Arab parties taking part in the negotiations. [passage omitted]

South Asian Regional Affairs

SAARC Council of Ministers Meets in Colombo

Standing Committee Meeting Ends

BK0707115492 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 7 Jul 92

[Text] The standing committee of the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] foreign secretaries concluded its three-day meeting in Colombo this afternoon. The committee finalized the agenda for the 11th session of the SAARC Council of Ministers which will take place tomorrow and on Thursday at the BMICH [Bandaranaike Memorial Institute Conference Hall]. According to Foreign Ministry sources, the independent South Asian Commission on Poverty Alleviation submitted its interim report to the foreign secretaries. The report was appreciated by the foreign secretaries who expressed that their work would greatly benefit the region. Sri Lanka's foreign secretary, Bernard Tilakaratne, presided over the meeting.

Promotion of Regional Trade Discussed

BK1007115892 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 10 Jul 92

[Text] The 11th session of the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] Council of Ministers was concluded in Colombo yesterday under the chairmanship of the minister of foreign affairs, Harold Herath. The SAARC foreign ministers took several decisions touching the promotion of regional trade. The council directed the intergovernment group on economic cooperation which will meet in Kathmandu shortly to proceed expeditiously to draft an agreement on SAARC preferential trading agreement. This draft will be submitted at the next meeting of the committee on economic cooperation to be held in New Delhi later this year. It will enable the Dhaka summit to take necessary action to give effect to the proposals. Member states were also requested to exchange information on export items which could eventually be listed under trade preferences.

Briefing newsmen in Colombo, the foreign secretary Bernard Tilakaratne, said that the meeting of the SAARC Council of Ministers also decided to explore the enormous potential of the South Asian Development Fund. The panel of experts on the fund chaired by the foreign minister of Bhutan has been asked to undertake a feasibility study to examine the possibility of mobilizing global surpluses for the development of South Asia.

The work of the independent South Asian Commission on Poverty Alleviation was also reviewed. The commission has up to now held two meetings in Colombo and New Delhi and is meeting in Dhaka at the moment. Two further meetings are scheduled to be held in Islamabad and Colombo respectively and the commission's final report will be submitted to the Dhaka summit through the chairman of SAARC. It was also agreed that Sri Lanka will host a ministerial conference on children in South Asia from 16-18 September this year and that a preparatory meeting for this purpose would be held in Colombo later this month. (?The ministers) will also assist this conference in accordance with past practice.

Pakistani, Indian Ministers Confer

BK1007124692 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 10 Jul 92

[Text] The minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr. Mohammad Siddique Khan Kanjoo, returned to Islamabad this afternoon from Colombo after leading Pakistan's delegation at the 11th session of the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] Council of Ministers. Talking to newsmen at Islamabad airport, he said that during his meeting with the Indian minister of state for external affairs, Mr. Eduardo Faleiro, in Colombo they agreed on the need for continuing bilateral dialogue at all levels to resolve all outstanding bilateral issues including Kashmir and the nuclear nonproliferation in South Asia. He said they also agreed for early convening of foreign secretary-level talks between the two countries. He told newsmen their talks covered bilateral, regional, and global issues including the forthcoming SAARC summit in Dhaka and the NAM [Nonaligned Movement] summit in Jakarta. The NAM summit will be held in the first week of September.

About the SAARC foreign ministers' meeting in Colombo, he said that it took decisions for consolidating mutually beneficial contact and cooperation in a number of fields. It also made a comprehensive review of the activities of the organization since sixth SAARC summit in Colombo last year. The minister of state said the council took important decisions on the adoption of common position by SAARC member states on global issues and for promoting institutionalized cooperation between SAARC and other regional organizations, UN agencies and other international bodies as well as friendly countries to expedite the realization of goals set by SAARC in the socioeconomic fields.

Algeria

Prime Minister Begins Consultations on Government

LD0907223592 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 9 Jul 92

[Text] Mr. Belaid Abdesselam has begun an extensive series of consultations for the purpose of forming his government. It has been stated that these consultations were taking place at his residence in Hydra. According to observers, he is not expected to announce the names of the members of his government before the end of the coming week.

Boudiaf Case Referred to Military Court

LD0907143192 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 9 Jul 92

[Text] The investigation into the assassination of the late President Mohamed Boudiaf has been referred to the military court. The public prosecutor at Annaba court explains the reasons for that to correspondent Rabiaa Deaache:

[Public prosecutor] On the conclusion of preliminary investigations by the Gendermerie in Annaba, and out of their consideration for the law and the regulations followed in that respect, they referred the accused Boumaarafi Lembarak to the public prosecutor at Annaba court last night.

After a thorough study of the file, the latter defined his position regarding the case and decided that fundamentally it was not within the jurisdiction of civil courts in view of many considerations, including the fact that it has been conclusively confirmed that the person referred to him is military personnel and the acts attributed to him were committed while he was in the service, on the basis of Article 25 of the military judicial code. The decision taken was communicated to the investigators in order to act in accordance with the stipulations of that law.

It is worth noting that the measure adopted by the public prosecution was in accordance with the principles of penal procedures and the military judicial code, the provisions of which are considered a part of public law.

[Deaache] Thus, the file has been referred to the military judiciary and the perpetrator of the crime will be referred to a military court which will be within the concerned region in order to complete the investigation into the circumstances of the assassination of the late President Boudiaf after the identity of the murderer, Boumaarafi Lembarak, has been confirmed conclusively.

Boumedienne Group Welcomes Kafi Appointment

LD0907161692 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 9 Jul 92

[Text] A statement that our correspondent in Setif received from Houari Boumedienne's faction points out that the appointment of Mr. 'Ali Kafi as chairman of the Higher State Council is a continuation of the plan that was drawn up by the late Boudiaf and is a loyalty to martyrs.

The statement says the appointment of Abdesselam Belaid as prime minister is a confirmation and determination to recover the national reputation and sacrifice, and it wished him success in his choice of government members.

Egypt

Minister Defends Media Handling of Extremism

NC0907155092 Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 6 Jul 92 pp 12-14

[Interview with Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif by 'Adil Hammudah in al-Sharif's office in Cairo; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Hammudah] We have felt the media's absence in dealing with those who imagine Egypt as a bomb, machine gun, or a bundle of dynamite sticks. We feel the confrontation is only taking place on a security level, although television is more important and effective than the central security forces.

[al-Sharif] When religion is involved, we must distinguish the following: Devoutness, extremism, and terrorism. We support and advocate devout conduct. We discuss extremism's causes to correct them, but we reject terrorism and mobilize society against it. This distinction requires sensitivity and reflects a clear information policy.

[Hammudah] Sometimes it does not appear to be clear.

[al-Sharif] We are not to blame in this; others, who think they are Islam's patrons, are. They think religious programs are less than necessary, while others have sensitivities and fear regarding extremism and think religious programs are very necessary.

[Hammudah] What about you?

[al-Sharif] We seek a middle course. We seek a genuine religion that does not stop society believing in God, that does not use firearms, and that argues its case soundly. The call for such is the right way to deal with extremism.

[Hammudah] What about dialogue?

[al-Sharif] Much space is given to dialogue in religious programs. It is held between the youths and senior scholars such as Shaykh Muhammad al-Ghazali, Dr. Kamal Abu-al-Majd, the mufti, and the religious men in al-Azhar. No dialogue will be conducted with criminals or outlaws. No dialogue will be held with terrorists. [passage omitted]

[Hammudah] We do not want the criminal and the terrorist to become television heroes, but a debate with the extremists and the chance for religious scholars to

refute their views and interpretations will stop the infection from spreading. The program "Opinions Forum" started like this, but changed to provide rulings by religious leaders that are covered in other programs.

[al-Sharif] At first, we thought dialogue with them would be useful, but we learned that they are rigid and unchanging in their views. They closed their minds. Some began using firearms. How can I continue the dialogue? This is a sensitive issue in a society in which illiteracy prevails. It was more useful to convey the values of the true religion to the new generations instead of wasting time and effort trying to convince those who refuse to be convinced. [passage omitted]

[Hammudah] Why does each body deal with the issue of extremism separately? The Interior Ministry appears to be removed from the Information Ministry and the mosque from the school—no unity, no coordination. If one party fails in its task, it blames all the other parties.

[al-Sharif] This problem concerns society as a whole—individuals, the government, and the institutions. It is a state problem because it affects national security in the broad sense of the word. It affects stability, investment, tourism, and other aspects. The cabinet discussed it more than once and we came out with a general policy. Every state institution has a share in implementing this policy in a manner that suits the nature of its work.

[Hammudah] Why does television devote attention to pollution and not to tackling extremism?

[al-Sharif] Environmental pollution demands a campaign, whereas extremism is subject to policy. The method of campaigns, such as those for family planning, does not suit this case. [passage omitted]

[Hammudah] Television drama has dealt with extremism, but the newscasts have not. We do not hear about incidents involving extremists in the news. Isn't this strange?

[al-Sharif] Frankly speaking, we do not know about such incidents in time to cover them in the news. If we know of an incident in time we rush to cover it, like the assassination of Dr. Rifa't al-Mahjub. If we cover incidents late, as in the case of the Salim Express ferryboat, the news is already dead or at least not hot. The reasons are technical, not political. [passage omitted]

[Hammudah] It is the opposite here—the press leads television in coverage. In the world it is the opposite.

[al-Sharif] Circumstances and resources do not permit it. [passage omitted]

Lack of Representation at League Meeting Assailed

NC0907140892 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 6 Jul 92 p 6

[Editorial: "Lebanon and Regional Peace"]

[Text] Only five Arab foreign ministers participated in the Arab League Council's emergency meeting of foreign ministers convened at Lebanon's request. The low level of representation raises again an old problem surrounding Arab League Council and Arab meetings in general, including the summits to which some countries send a much lower level of representative than the required leadership or similar.

This reflects some disregard for the issues proposed at Arab meetings, including that which Lebanon asked for and which started the day before yesterday. Lebanon submitted a memorandum asking for Arab support for its efforts to implement Security Council Resolution 425, which calls for Israel's full and comprehensive withdrawal from southern Lebanon. Israel has refused to implement this resolution, giving baseless justifications that contradict the simplest rules of international legitimacy that many consider the pillar of the new world order.

Not only is Israel satisfied with refusing to implement Security Council Resolution 425, but it also continues to step up its attacks on the defenseless citizens in southern Lebanon, under the pretext that these aggressions are in response to fedayeen operations. It conveniently forgets that these operations would not have taken place had Israel not aggressed and occupied a cherished part of Lebanese territory.

Going further than this, reports—mostly true—are circulating about Israel implementing projects that threaten the future of southern Lebanon, even all Lebanon and the Arab homeland. These are projects designed to divert the course of Lebanese rivers or to annex parts of southern Lebanese territories.

The danger of these Israeli projects lies in their harmful effect on the process of achieving reconciliation and stability in Lebanon in implementation of the al-Ta'if agreement, which guarantees restoring stability to the fraternal country after 17 years of civil war—a war that has taken various forms and the price of which has been paid by the Lebanese and by other Arab countries.

Rescuing Lebanon from its crisis and implementing Security Council Resolution 425 will have its effect on the regional peace process, expected to resume next month.

Foreign Minister Discusses Regional Issues

Relations With Iran Improving

PM0907105292 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 7 Jul 92 p 6

[Unattributed report: "Musa: "Relations With Iran Moving Toward Normalization"]

[Excerpts] Cairo, SAWT AL-KUWAYT—Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has emphasized Egypt's respect for Iran's role and its eagerness to improve relations with it. In an exclusive statement to SAWT AL-KUWAYT he said that relations between the two

countries, which were severed in 1979, are moving toward a normalization. Musa added: "Iran is a fraternal state and it is meaningless for relations to continue as they were in the past." [passage omitted]

He said that the era of Israeli "no's" has ended, and it is hoped that any "no's" will be legitimate ones. He said that Egypt will not accept these "no's" if the next Israeli Government persists in issuing them. Musa expressed his hope that the peace process would continue and become firmly established within the framework of the land-for-peace formula. He welcomed Rabin's statements, saying that he expected good from them. [passage omitted]

Musa said that the peace process must be settled within a matter of months on the way to a comprehensive settlement, the Palestinian people's imperative self-determination, the recovery of their legitimate rights, a solution to Jerusalem's future, and the withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories. He added that the negotiations must not last for several years—"10 years," as was planned by the Likud under Shamir, who sought to thwart it.

Comments on G-7 Summit

NC0907112692 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0944 GMT 9 Jul 92

[Text] Cairo, 9 Jul (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa today welcomed the statement issued by the conference of the seven major industrialized countries. He declared that the statement's reference to stopping the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, particularly nuclear weapons, and its call to all countries to join the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty adds to President Husni Mubarak's initiative on this matter.

The foreign minister also welcomed the seven leaders' unconditional support for the Middle East peace process based on UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, which call for trading land for peace.

'Amr Musa supported the industrialized countries' condemnation of Serbia's actions, their efforts to provide urgent humanitarian aid, and their refusal to recognize Serbia and Montenegro as the heirs to former Yugoslavia.

The foreign minister said that the Munich statement is an important contribution by the seven major industrialized countries to world peace and security. He added that it also emphasizes the role of the United Nations and helps it shoulder its responsibilities. Musa announced that Egypt is perfectly willing to cooperate in efforts to uphold the principles and goals of the UN Charter and safeguard international legitimacy. He said that Egyptian participation in peacekeeping operations in Angola, the Western Sahara, Somalia, Cambodia, and Yugoslavia is an example of Egypt's cooperation in such efforts.

Interior Minister Addresses Police Graduates

NC0807211292 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1454 GMT 8 Jul 92

[Text] Cairo, 8 Jul (MENA)—Interior Minister Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa has declared that the security organs will firmly and strongly confront anyone who tries to break the law or to threaten the security of the homeland or citizens. He said that the security situation in Asyut is calm in the wake of recent incidents. He pointed out that the security organs will refer those proven to have been involved in these incidents to the prosecution office and release those proven innocent. He stressed that the police departments will not hesitate to do their duty in chasing and hunting down the extremists to establish security so that Egypt will remain an oasis of security and stability and so that the development process can continue in the interests of society. This was contained in a speech he delivered today at the graduation ceremony of a new group of policemen at the police institute.

Musa called on the Interior Ministry departments to pay attention to training to raise the level of performance of all police personnel to confront whatever challenges they may encounter. He said that we are aware of the various conflicts and circumstances the world around us is passing through, and he noted the importance of developing police department work to cope with various international developments.

Musa pointed out that security and stability in Egypt will not be disturbed by certain individuals who stray from the law. He said that there are no differences between Muslims and Christians in Egypt, noting that those who try to cast doubt on national unity seek to create confusion and disrupt security.

The South Korean ambassador to Egypt, whose country donated 250 vehicles to the police department, attended the meeting along with officials from the Interior Ministry, the police institute, and the training center.

Coptic Pope Denounces All Forms of 'Terrorism'

NC0607211492 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1528 GMT 6 Jul 92

[Excerpts] Cairo, 6 Jul (MENA)—Pope Shinudah III of Alexandria has condemned the brutal Serbian massacres against the population of Bosnia-Hercegovina and urged Europe, the United Nations, and the Security Council to do something to stop the massacres. [passage omitted]

The pope held a news conference at his patriarchate in al-'Abbasiyah today that was attended by representatives of national and foreign newspapers, news agencies, and televisions. [passage omitted]

Asked about the status of Christians in Egypt, the pope denied the existence of Christian terrorist organizations in Egypt.

He concluded the news conference by saying: We hope the situation will be viewed from a just and comprehensive perspective. We hope that love will prevail—the Muslim's love for his fellow Muslim and fellow Copt and the Copt's love for his fellow Muslim and fellow Copt. We hope that affection will rise above religion. He denounced all forms of terrorism.

[Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic at 1615 GMT on 6 July carries a similar report that adds: "Coptic Pope Shinudah III today broke his traditional silence concerning the outbreak of anti-Coptic violence since last March, calling on the government to take firm measures to ensure the end of the violence. The pope discussed the four-month strife in Dayrut, Upper Egypt, in which 25 to 30 people have been killed to date, including at least 15 Copts. He said: Many Copts in Dayrut cannot leave their homes because of the fear that has gripped the town. Rejecting the official view that Dayrut events are individual vendettas, the pope said: The events in Dayrut are clear and unambiguous. The pope denied claims made in some Islamic newspapers that some Coptic extremist groups exist in the region, saying: There are no such Coptic organizations. They would have been arrested already if they existed. There are no armed Coptic groups, he added."]

Ministers Depart for British Investment Meeting

NC0807110792 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1031 GMT 8 Jul 92

[Excerpt] Cairo, 8 Jul (MENA)—A high-level Egyptian delegation left Cairo for Britain today to attend a conference on investment in Egypt. The conference is being organized by the British Industries Association and the Middle East Trade Committee in cooperation with the Egyptian Embassy in London.

The Egyptian delegation includes Dr. Yusri Mustafa, minister of economy and foreign trade; Industry Minister Muhammad 'Abd-al-Wahhab; and Fu'ad Sultan, minister of tourism and civil aviation. [passage omitted]

Kuwaiti Minister Meets With Prime Minister

NC0807205292 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1853 GMT 8 Jul 92

[Text] Cairo, 8 Jul (MENA)—This evening Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi received in his office Salih al-Ma'usharji, Kuwaiti awqaf and Islamic affairs minister, who is currently visiting Cairo.

During the meeting, attended by Awqaf Minister Muhammad 'Ali Mahjub, discussion focused on means to bolster bilateral relations, especially in the fields of Islamic call.

Cypriot Justice Minister Departs; Accord Signed

NC0907132992 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1146 GMT 9 Jul 92

[Text] Cairo, 9 Jul (MENA)—Cypriot Justice Minister Nikolaos Papaioannou left Cairo at noon today after a three-day visit to Egypt. A judicial cooperation agreement on legal procedures concerning the two countries' nationals and extradition of criminals was signed during the visit.

The Cypriot minister also held talks with Justice Minister Faruq Sayf al-Nasr on ways to increase cooperation between the two countries on various judicial issues.

The Cypriot minister was seen off at the airport by Counselor Sayf al-Nasr and Cypriot Ambassador Yeorgios Yeorgiadhis.

Withdrawal From Lebanon Will Influence Peace

NC0607064992 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0335 GMT 6 Jul 92

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Lebanon and Regional Peace," AL-JUMHURIYAH comments: Lebanon submitted a memorandum to the Arab League Council demanding Arab support for the efforts seeking to implement UN Security Council Resolution 425, which calls for total Israeli withdrawal from south Lebanon. Israel refuses to implement the resolution, using feeble pretexts that contravene the most elementary rules of international legitimacy which many regard as the pillars of the new world order.

AL-JUMHURIYAH says: Reports are circulating—and they are often true—that Israel is carrying out projects that are dangerous to the future of south Lebanon, indeed the future of the entire country and the Arab world. These projects are designed to divert water from Lebanese rivers and actually annex parts of the south. Such acts have a serious effect on the stability and reconciliation process in Lebanon being carried out under the aegis of the al-Ta'if agreement, which guarantees the restoration of quiet to that fraternal country following 17 years of civil war. The Lebanese people and other Arab peoples paid the price of the various forms that war took.

AL-JUMHURIYAH concludes: Rescuing Lebanon from this crisis and implementing UN Security Council Resolution 425 will influence the regional peace process that is expected to be resumed next month.

Iran, Hizballah Praise of Boudiaf Death Noted

NC0707144292 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0605 GMT 7 Jul 92

[Text] Cairo, 7 Jul (MENA)—Today's edition of AL-AHRAM regrets statements made by some Tehran clergymen and Lebanese Hizballah members praising the

assassination of late Algerian leader Mohamed Boudiaf. The paper says that such statements are denounced by all genuine Muslims. Algerian officials investigating the assassination have not accused the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] nor has the FIS claimed responsibility for the crime, the paper adds.

In its commentary today, the paper wonders about the strange rush by Iranian and Hizballah clergymen to applaud the Boudiaf assassination and about their claim that no one except the West regrets the assassination. In addition, they say that the incident brought joy to the Algerian people. AL-AHRAM notes regrettably that it is this type of policy that damages our young people, incites audacious behavior, and causes them to committ crimes under the claim of preventing others from doing so.

Concluding its commentary, the paper asks: Instead of shooting Muslims claiming that they are unbelievers, why don't these people drum up support or move armies, for instance, to uproot the wrongdoings to which the Muslims of Bosnia-Hercegovina are being subjected?

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Discusses Anti-Terrorist Stance

LD0907165092 Tripoli JANA in English 1442 GMT 9 Jul 92

[Text] Tripoli Nasir [July] 9 JAMAHARIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of the revolution has reiterated that the the Great Jamahariyah does not support terrorism and that it is working towards arriving at a peaceful solution to the ongoing crisis between the Great Jamahariyah and certain Western countries.

In a talk published today by the weekly (AL-SHURUQ) newspaper which is published in the United Arab Emirates, the leader said that the climate had become conducive to understanding, within this context, and that no one had any further desire to see an escalation in the crisis, nor to seek revenge, nor to contravene the United Nations or legal methods.

He added that no one knew right now where an impartial and just trial would be held, as decided upon by the peoples' congresses in their resolutions on the Lockerbie crisis.

The leader of the revolution queried the meaning of "opening the old files" if the United States is talking about a new world order and continuous talk only about Lockerbie. On the subject of Britain, the leader made clear that the matter which concerns this country is Libya's stance vis a vis the Irish Republican Army and Libya had reaffirmed that it had severed relations with this organisation.

In his talk to (AL-SHURUQ), the leader of the revolution warned that a wave of violence and disturbances would soon be witnessed in the Arab nation and that the actions being carried out by extremist organisations were the beginning of this wave.

Efforts Toward Arab Unity Discussed

LD1007091892 Tripoli JANA in English 1431 GMT 9 Jul 92

[Text] Tripoli, Naser 9 [Jul] JAMAHARIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Today's editorial of 'AL-ZAHF AL-AKHDAR' newspaper dealt with the efforts exerted by Libyans to achieve Arab unity. The newspaper highlighted this by speaking of how Libyans converge en masse onto the streets on every pan Arab occasion declaring their unequivocal and straightforward stance vis a vis this or that occasion. Indeed, the newspaper said, they do this simply because it is an Arab occasion treating it as if it was crucial to the very foundations of the Arab nation.

In its' editorial, the newspaper said that the Libyans were pan Arabists down to their very bones to the same extent that they were believers in unity. This is why they were the most active in trying to achieve pan Arabism and Arab unity indeed, Libya never opposed any pan Arab proposal or declaration of unity. Furthermore, not one Libyan failed to speak less than ten times about Arab unity, the Arab nation, Arab strength, or Arab self esteem, dignity, and pride.

Indeed, the extent of Libyan attachment to unity led to their taking part [word indistinct] in the first historical march [words indistinct] they exerted all their efforts towards creating unity between two countries, far away from each other. The Libyans were also the first to do away with their borders for the sake of this unity. They were the first to call for the use of the Arabic language in international parlances. Libya was also the first to bestow its' generosity on the Arab citizen while going from one country to another at a time when the Arabs were denigrated at the immigration control of the Western countries. However, one may wish to ask what brought about this reverse in Libyan actions?

What compelled them to go along with that published by their press? Why has regionalism come to bear among Libyans to this extent? Did the revolution, for a period of a quarter of a century, not succeed in creating a culture of unity, pan Arabism and a united nation in this part of the Arab world?

One wonders why Libyans say that they are willing to help in any way in order to re-erect the immigration posts. What compelled the [word indistinct] of questions reverberate Libyans to damn everything [words indistinct]

Dozens of questions which have begun to plague the Iraqis and those who lent support to the Libyan movement whom were, in the not too distant past, fanatics for unity. However, today they have openly become regionalists.

If just one Arab is able to declare his justness if one [word indistinct] Arab is able to declare his [word indistinct] then he would be able to respond to these questions

The 'AL-ZAHF AL-AKHDAR' newspaper's editorial went on:

The Libyans were abandoned twice when the Arabs mocked them and reverted to their self interests, and their special relationships. They didn't care, not once, about the comprehensive unity, complete liberation and the real improvement in the Arab's national and personal life, the Libyans were calling for.

Once more, the Arabs were the first to abide by the unjust embargo imposed by the West on those Libyans who kept insisting, to the point of annoyance, on the need to unite, without concern for their own interests.

Thus, we wonder who were the ones to oppose unity? The Libyans or the rest of the Arabs? Who then were the ones who preferred their regional interests to those of the entire nation? The Libyans? Or the [words indistinct] on the Libyans to the rest of the Arabs? Who, then, [word indistinct] on the Libyans to bring down the border posts. Now they are dining the Arabs and declaring that they are willing to help re-erect these border posts. So who, we wonder, was responsible for spurring them on, the Libyans? Or the other Arabs? Did one Arab ever come to declare his or her unity with these Libyans for the Libyans to receive ever? Which Arab country would fail to benefit from unity with the Libyans?

The response, if it is to be fair, will explain to us why the Libyans went along with their press and what it published. Why they fully agreed with their local press which expressed their bitterness and despair with any mention of the word 'Arab'. Thus, this state the Libyans are in right now, which many were surprised about, did not come about for the reasons which certain people chose to propagate.

What we want is only a state of just observation of this Libyan state. Which would demonstrate that the Libyans are right.

Lack of Unity Detailed

LD0607215792 Tripoli JANA in English 1442 GMT 6 Jul 92

[Quotation marks as received]

[Text] Tripoli, Nasir [July] 6, JAMAHARIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The 'AL-ZAHAF-AL-AKHDAR' newspaper today published an article under the heading "A Practice of the Arab Peoples Congress: Why Don't They Act?" which said:

"For the sake of pan Arab action, bringing the opinions and ideas of the Arab political and cultural institutions, including political parties, organisations, and individual and group activists, closer, and for the sake of uniting the unofficial Arab stance vis a vis those dangers and challenges which are currently threatening to undermine the Arab nation, for all this, the Arab Peoples Congress was created.

The questions to be asked, and particularly after all these experiences gained by the congress, is "to what extent did the congress succeed? Did it really carry out the role it was entrusted with?" and "towards what end should the congress be heading?"

The newspaper said "not the Arab Peoples Congress but one of the Pan Arab institutions which the Jamahiriyah sponsored and one whose work was adopted. This includes a [word indistinct] Arab institutions, including political parties and non secret organisations as well as poets and theorists, intellectuals, writers, literary figures, poets and journalists. Branching off from it, furthermore, is the Pan Arab Council for Culture which publishes the magazine "AL WAHDAH" (UNITY) which is based in Paris. Also branching off from it lately is an institution which publishes cultural, artistic, and media material and fosters those outstanding achievers in the Arab world.

Indeed, the Arab national, except in Libya or the Latin Maghreb, does not enjoy the opportunity to exercise administration of the congress or the council. Nor in any other country in the Arab nation does the Arab citizen experience the workings of this congress nor do they attend the cultural or literary forums.

The newspaper added "however, the congress persisted in organising activities of self-same significance in Arab reality. Despite the attendance of the members of the congress at these activities. However, following up the proposals of each activity does not involve them. Furthermore, it is not possible for anyone to rule in favour of the congress in succeeding in leaving the desired effect.

For example, the "AL WAHDAH" (UNITY) magazine, and is without doubt that the readers noticed the marginal manner in which it contains a mixture of viewpoints as well as ideological, theoretical and various arguments. Perhaps, those who appraise this magazine need to ensure that the ideas published in this magazine's pages do not necessarily represent the opinion of those who publish it.

However, our main objection is that it also does not in the least express the joint and unified stance. This compels those who are active in the Pan Arab Council for Culture to achieve things via their [words indistinct] and let us confront them with this truth.

Let opinions vary so that the intellectuals and the theorists can express themselves as they will on the pages of this magazine. Furthermore, what will their response be when they begin to study the surveys of this magazine and write them and we are surprised that the Pan Arab Council for Culture in fact publishes a magazine which is prominent for its' regionalness.

Thus, many complained that the magazine refused to publish their results for one reason, namely, it seems for the reason that those writers who were refused were neither from country A or B.

The magazine's staff instead delegated a number of its' pages to only one group of names which mainly concerned their publishing interests, and nothing more.

They then called on us to write about another aspect of the congress's activities, namely about the institution for outstanding achievement which was started by the congress in recent days does not provide for anything even now except for the yearly appraisal report or personal memoirs. Thus, it seems that those presiding over it forgot the great aims which they based the establishment of the institution upon.

Furthermore, despite the participation of hundreds of Arab writers, intellectuals and artists in this institution and despite paying the required contributions for membership, it seems that none of the duties pledged by the Pan Arab Council for Culture were [word indistinct] acted upon.

Indeed, its' budget surpassed the budget of a developing country and this, in our opinion, is more than is needed for organising cultural activities which shouldn't cost anything in the first place. Therefore, what happened to the aims which were set out in its' founding declaration? What did it offer us in the realm of recording the supposed revolutionary stances of the Arab intellectuals and writers?.

What will it do now with the duties it entrusted to itself? Also, until when will spending remain at unreasonable levels? And where is it heading towards?

Our answers are carefully chosen, clear, and simple namely that either the Arab Peoples Congress restores our trust in it or that it disperses its' members for them to go to the point of no return just as others who inexcusably went the same way.

The 'AL-ZAHAF-AL-AKHDAR' newspaper asked "did the Arabs honor the treaties for which we stood by them? Did they share our joy? Or did they share our sorrow? Did one Arab country declare a day of mourning for our martyrs who fell during the American raid on our country?"

Did one Arab country ever announce, straightforwardly and in full daylight, that it would be willing to sacrifice their interests or its' relations for our sake..? which Arab country ever opposed this entire force confronting us (because we are an Arab country), that or closed their airports to any hostile airline or an airline belonging to a country which threatens an Arab country, called Libya? Also, which Arab country attempted to close its' ports to any ship belonging to one of the countries who are boycotting us? Which country ever said but one word in support of justice and which country ever became angry on our behalf?

Which Arab ever boarded his plane, declaring his support for us and refused to abide by the unjust embargo and came to us to embrace us? Definitely, no one....

All complied, kept silent, closed their ears, and stopped their goodwill from reaching us..

All complied with international legitimacy and left the legitimacy of this nation behind in the latrines of their palaces..

The latest news which reached us was that Mitterrand boarded an airplane and embarked in the capital of Bosnia-Hercegovina, the capital of the Muslims of Yugoslavia, despite the [word indistinct] of the war which is taking place there. Despite all the dangers, Mitterrand was proving that he was braver than any Muslim who is denying the fear and trepidation of his brothers and sisters in Bosnia-Hercegovina.

Thus, we wished that Mitterrand were only an Arab because we truly believe that Mitterrand would board a plane and embark in Tripoli despite this blockade which is imposed by so-called 'international legitimacy', so, again, if only Mitterrand were an Arab or if only we had joined our interests and formed our alliances with Mitterrand. [Word indistinct], we declare that we are willing to do this, given that the alliances of the brave are those which make history.

Morocco

King Hassan's Speech Views Coming Elections

LD0907114192 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2135 GMT 8 Jul 92

[Address by King Hassan marking Youth Day at the royal palace in Rabat—live]

[Excerpts] Praise be to God, and prayers and peace be upon our lord, the messenger of God, his family, and companions. Dear people, although we have in the past years commemorated Youth Day, our celebration this year will bear a new mark, because, in addition to honoring the young and arousing the spirit and vigor of youth, we will, in the course of the coming weeks, be rejuvenating the cadres of the nation. [passage omitted]

There are nations, which, now and again, need rejuvenating and strengthening, and Morocco is one of them. Its great and glorious history shows that it has always found in the young a basis for making history.

Thus, I said that we are on the eve of some extremely important weeks, if not fundamental, regarding the future of our country. For, as you know, dear people, you are going to be invited, in this coming period of time, to take part in a referendum, local and vocational [mihaniyah] elections, and general elections. As for the constitution, as you know, dear people, it has not been our policy to hold the elections prematurely, or to announce details prematurely. It suffices for you, dear

people, you and the parties that form a framework for you, whether the latter be in government or not, to know that we have taken into account the views and suggestions concerning the amendment of the constitution, after we had ourselves spontaneously asked them to submit them to us. [passage omitted]

When the time comes, which will not be long, we will submit the constitution to you, my dear people, and you will see that you will be proud of it and become distinguished among states and peoples.

After we have created the machinery and means for exercising affairs of responsibility, we will invite you to vote in local and vocational elections to form one third of the parliament. Yes, I am saying one third, because among the suggestions made to me was that parliament should stem from national elections. However, I believe that if we do not put into parliament itself representatives of decentralization—the decentralization that has become one of the pillars of rule in this country, the decentralization that has become an example to be followed—if we do not put them in the parliament, which votes on law—the law which is the most profound expression of the will of the state, the law that must be respected by everyone—if we do not directly involve those who are locally elected, the true representatives of decentralization with others, in a single hall, and on an equal basis at the level of local, regional, and national responsibility, we will inflict harm on that decentralization. After we made decentralization a spearhead of our future, if we went back on our options and put it in a position that did not take into consideration the respect and status it had, we would damage it.

Therefore, my dear people, I am saying that you will be called upon, at a later date, to vote for candidates at the national level. [passage omitted] We have not seen in our previous parliaments, nor do we see in the current one, except lawyers and some university lecturers who, and I am saying this with all due respect [words indistinct] do not know about life and affairs except for what is written in the books they teach or study. I have never seen that in important investors, successful bankers, financiers, owners of factories which have been promoted and built. They are the ones who will, with their experience, be able to provide the necessary signal for acceleration, halting, or thinking in a particular field, particularly in two fields, the fields of economy and employment.

I urge those people—and I also urge the young cadres who occupy important positions in our society—I urge them to enter parliament, not to become professional politicians, but to manage affairs as they should be managed and in the best ways possible. At the same time, they would be that element that I mentioned at the beginning of my speech, an element of rejuvenation for this nation, an element of innovation that would bring in ideas—not ideas built in a vacuum, but ideas that have found their justification and have drawn their course and features from their success in the field. [passage omitted]

The Moroccan people have a special sensitivity for judging this or that person; this one is talking truthfully and that one is talking hypocritically.

My hope, my dear people and my dear youth, is that 9 July will herald a new beginning that will lead to more and more opportunities and upon which long eras will be established. [passage omitted]

Let these coming weeks and let our work during these coming weeks be an indication of our faith in our country and of an undiminishing belief in the honor we hold our people in and in our respect for the view of the majority [al-jama'a].

Part of God's grace on this country is that, from a religious aspect, it is acting according to God's book, the example of God's messenger, and the views of the whole. Likewise, in worldly and political matters, it must act according to what the whole majority decides... and my nation will never agree on something wrong. [Koranic verse] [passage omitted]

What is more and more important is the spirit and intention with which we will approach these coming weeks. If our intention is not pure, then God will bring us to account and then I hope that as soon as possible we will be accountable to God. But if our intention is good, and when I say our, I mean everyone's and not just myself, then I pray to God to reward us immediately and in the future. [passage omitted]

New 'Neutral' Government Expected in 3 Days

NC1007094692 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0617 GMT 10 Jul 92

[Text] Rabat, 10 Jul (MENA)—MENA's Rabat correspondent has learned that a new Moroccan Government will be appointed to supervise the elections that are due to be held in the next few months.

Official Moroccan sources said that the new government, which will be announced in the next three days, will be "a neutral government of technocrats" and will not include the current 13 ministers who are members of political parties. The sources added that today, Friday, is the current government's last working day.

It has also been learned that some ministries will be merged in the new government. It is expected to remain in power for six months during which time a referendum on amending the Constitution will be organized to be followed by local and union elections prior to holding parliamentary elections.

Minister on Preparations for Upcoming Elections

LD0907143492 Rabat MAP in English 1245 GMT 9 Jul 92

[Text] Rabat, Jul 9 (MAP)—Everything was done to see to free and transparent consultations and royal commitment is the guarantee of guarantees, says State Minister Moulay Ahmed Alaoui.

In his Friday editorial in the "MATIN DU SAHARA ET DU MAGHREB", [he] recalled debates and proposals examined in preparation for the coming elections and said the electoral calendar will be respected. The national debate is thus closed, says Alaoui. Texts are finalized and stages set and the process is engaged with registration on voting lists, he said.

Barzan al-Tikriti on Redrawing Gulf Borders

JN0907132992 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 7 Jul 92 p 6

["Second part" of article by Barzan al-Tikriti, Iraq's permanent UN representative in Geneva: "For a Better Arab Future"]

[Text] 7. [number as published] As is now known, the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] should give up the rich men's club, although this would mean losing the privilege of financial muscle flexing, because it would then be unable to use this privilege as effectively as it is doing now. A gazelle should not be proud of its graceful body in front of hungry lions. However, such behavior seems to have eased after the recent events, since most Gulf states have begun to play the tune of indebtedness and economic deterioration for their own reasons and objectives. If the GCC wants to remain as a regional organization capable of development and continuation, it should invite Iraq to join it, and should welcome it as an effective GCC member and Gulf state after it ignored it for a long period of time. Moreover, the GCC played a role in harming Iraq when the Gulf states joined foreign nations to hit Iraq in 1991.

Afterward, Yemen's GCC membership should be considered. The presence of a unified Iraq, a unified Saudi Arabia, a unified Yemen—which has already been unified—a unified Syria, and a unified Jordan within the GCC will make it representative of the entire Arabian Peninsula and the Gulf. At the same time, this will provide it with real ability to guarantee its regional security. In its new composition, the GCC will find itself much more qualified to play a significant and basic role in future Arab unity plans. At the same time, as far as the West and its interests are concerned, it will be easier for it to deal with four real states rather than 10 small states, where it is difficult to identify the center of decisionmaking. It would then be possible to reach an understanding and agreement between the union's states and the West—an agreement that would satisfy all, achieve the interests of all, and enhance their mutual interests. Interests constitute the basis of international relations. Interests are the most important element in any relationship, especially if we view them with respect and recognize their importance for all parties. Interests can be more effective as a stabilizing factor and can push relations forward when they are preplanned for further intermingling and interaction in the interest of all parties.

The other important thing is that we must realize and acknowledge that the world has changed. As part of this world, the Arab world has also changed. Moreover, the Arab world may continue to change. However, irrespective of the changes that took place or the changes that will take place, the course of human history will not be affected. We notice that the Arab world is passing through a state of vacuum and fragmentation more than before. We also notice that the Arab world is absorbing events, but not dictating them.

Therefore, we should take into consideration the major positive effects that will result from redrawing the map of the Arabian Peninsula and the Gulf. We must realize, in fact it is necessary to realize, the extent to which the Arabian Gulf has long been linked to the Western policies to the point that it has become a satellite to Western order.

The Arabian Peninsula has always been an arena of conflict for the West. In this arena, the Europeans and Americans compete without posing any danger, since the safety of the Gulf political unity depends only on the Western countries' will. For approximately two centuries, the Arab world has been influenced—more than any other part of the Third World—by the policies of the major powers. This situation left imprints on one generation after another as well as on the Arab political stands and practices. Therefore, matters in the Arab world and the Arabian Gulf remained interwoven in a way that facilitated the establishing and dissolving of alliances. The presence of the Western world's interests—represented by oil in the first place—in the Gulf and the Arabian Peninsula makes it difficult for that world to stand aside when events move in direction that is unfavorable to these interests. Therefore, we find that the Western world creates excuses to become involved in conflicts which, to begin with, might appear local. However, with the passage of time, these conflicts become very important on the international level. The boundaries between the local, regional, and international issues in the Middle East are always unclear. The international stand vis-a-vis the proposed major changes in the Arabian Peninsula requires an accurate and in-depth understanding of the reasons that made the West establish small political entities in the Gulf. Western countries' support for establishing small political entities is essential if the West wants to maintain its interests in the region. Therefore, the West only agrees to any form of merger or unity among the Gulf states if this guarantees its interests. In fact, such a merger or unity would maintain stability in the Arabian Peninsula and the Gulf and safeguard security in the region. In fact, it would be an announcement of the beginning of a new Arab era. The West would abandon any thought of military intervention in a peaceful and stable area. It would be possible to implement projects from which the West could benefit in the economic, and even political, field. It would also remove long- and short-term political, military, and economic burdens that are shouldered by the West and which would exhaust it today particularly under its well-known economic circumstances. In addition, dealing with four or five big strong countries would be more beneficial and more practical than dealing with nine or 10 small and weak countries. This reminds us of the old saying: Had I known the unknown I would have done many good things. Is it too late?

To further clarify the importance of the Arab oil to the world and to the people of this region, we say the following: The economic infrastructure in the Gulf is very much like that of other Third World countries

despite the presence of oil. If we examine the economic situation in the Gulf we will find the same problems and burdens, such as the big gap between the wealthy and poor. This could create social and political problems if the gap continues, particularly in the absence of national, ambitious, and successful reforms that could end this social and economic gap. The continuation of this situation will help to create a radical Islamic or non-Islamic reform movement that will promise the people to move quickly toward destroying all the bases on which these regimes were established. And the groups which promise people quick progress cannot work without destroying these bases.

For these and other reasons, the educated class in the Gulf often wonders—this happened especially after the Arabs were disappointed in the recent years after the discovery of oil, particularly during the seventies—whether oil is a tool that can be used to promote economic development in Arab states in general or a tool for enslaving and oppressing Arabs in particular.

It is noticeable that the Arabs tried to use oil as a political tool in international relations. This started when the June war took place in 1967, which was a turning point in contemporary Arab history. This is because it was the first time that a serious dialogue was undertaken on the official Arab level on the possibility of using oil as a weapon for pressure and bargaining in international politics.

The first signs of such thinking emerged at the Baghdad conference in August 1967 and the Khartoum summit in September 1967. Some Arabs had thought that a comprehensive embargo on Arab oil could be imposed against the West for political reasons, most important of which was the Arab-Israeli conflict, so as to create a shortage in the international oil market. This idea came after the failure of another idea to reduce monthly oil production by five percent, as happened later during the October war in 1973. This was decided at a conference for Arab oil ministers in Kuwait.

Naturally, the Arabs should expect, as a Western reaction to a decision to impose an oil embargo, that the West and Japan would impose a counter embargo by preventing the export of any vital commodity to oil-producing Arab states. Add to this that they will lay their hands on Arab deposits in Western states.

If such a crisis does take place, it is well known that Arab financial investment in the West will no longer be a weapon in the hands of Arabs. The opposite will happen. Arab deposits will be in Western hands. This shows how oil is a double-edged weapon that could backfire on the Arabs in times of crises. When former U.S. Secretary of the Treasury William Simon was once asked about the relationship between the Arabs and their oil, he remarked: "Those people do not own oil. They only sit on it."

We notice, therefore, that the Western position is basically built on the weakness of the Arabs to control their wealth and resources. True ownership of wealth does not stem from sovereignty and its theoretical concept or the adherence to ownership based on legal foundations, since this wealth is Arab. Rather, it stems from the ability and power to use these resources, whether they are oil, treasury bonds, or petrodollars.

We must note another fact here on the local scene, especially in oil-rich Gulf states; namely, that oil has bolstered inherited tribal allegiance and promoted and deepened regional disputes, which increased fragmentation in the Arab homeland. This explains why Arab unity is no longer an important objective, regardless of how it was viewed in the fifties and sixties. The reason is that the oil-producing Gulf states, especially the GCC states, found in this situation a good protection for their privileges through which they can lead a luxurious life depending on their oil wealth. Therefore, we find that these states have resisted, and are still resisting, any attempt at unity. In fact, they consider such attempts a threat to their wealth.

As a result of oil, it has become common—encouraged by the big industrialized states—to set up regional political-economic entities. This was the main reason for the creation and entrenchment of the modern states in the Arabian Gulf as we know them today. This led to a situation or a phenomenon that can be described as "oil nationalism" which overemphasized the principles of sovereignty, financial contributions, and economic achievements with the aim of portraying these small newly established states as real standing facts that cannot be changed. The second reason which has increased the tragedy and caused a crack among the sons of the Arab nation, is the income rate of the individual in the Gulf states, thanks to the oil revenues. This income rate has become a factor of division among the Arabs. This same factor has widened the gap between the rich Arabs, who are becoming richer and the poor Arabs, who are becoming poorer and whose suffering increases. This has led to the polarization of the haves and the have nots.

The migration of Arab workers from countries that do not produce oil to those that do has become an instrument of pressure on the political decisionmakers of both sides. This has adversely affected relations between these parties, and oil nationalism has become a means of blackmail between the rich Arabs of the GCC and the poor Arabs of the non oil-producing countries. The oil-producing countries employ tens of thousands of foreign and Arab workers, who constitute the backbone of the economic life in these countries. On the other hand, these workers and expatriates send home hundreds of millions of dollars a year, which is a source of invisible income. This has led to several adverse phenomena, including the migration of qualified people, the rise of abnormal consumption habits which have been transferred from the rich GCC states to other poorer countries.

Moreover, these states began threatening to expel the expatriate workers and replace them with foreign workers from east Asia, India, Bangladesh, etcetera.

They began explaining the merits of foreign labor, that they are more obedient, more productive, and cheaper. The aim of these methods is to employ pressure to obtain political gains from the non oil-producing countries. This has caused these countries to hint, on occasion, to use these workers to confuse the economic and security structure in the concerned oil-producing countries. This, in turn, is blackmail and intimidation.

As a result of these and other issues, oil has failed to be instrumental in any pan-Arab unionist project, whether political, social, or even educational. At the same time, it has failed to advance economic development in the countries that do not produce oil and in the hoped-for Arab economic integration. As long as Arab unity is a political decision that is inapplicable without the strong support of the Arab leadership, then economic temptations, no matter how important they may be, will not alone be a decisive element.

These are local facts and phenomena in the Arab world and in some Third World countries. What matters, however, is the relationship between the oil-producing Arab countries and the industrial world. For the industrial world, oil is the lifeline, and I believe that this importance of oil has become well known and more obvious after the recent incidents, and since 2 August 1990. This fact, therefore, must be considered and contemplated so as to work out a satisfactory and acceptable formula for all parties. If we are to reach such a satisfactory and useful result, we have to seek help from the past.

We should consider the importance of oil to the West, and the West's decision to place Arab oil—which makes up the largest portion of world oil—under control to ensure its continuous flow to Western markets and industries. This would help the West and the United States survive and maintain full superiority.

This is an old Western decision—as old as the emergence of oil in the Arab region and the realization of its vital importance. Oil was discovered in the Arab region thanks to the role of the West and its technology. But this, of course, was not meant to help the Arabs. The West wanted to serve its own interests, which it safeguards by all means, no matter how rejected, disputed, or unethical these means are.

Mr. Muhammad Hasanayn Haykal once told me a true story, which he also mentioned in one of his books—I believe "The Upheaval"—and in his latest book "The Gulf War: Illusions of Strength and Victory". Haykal says he accompanied President Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir on a visit to Yugoslavia in July 1958. They were guests of President Tito, who was a friend of 'Abd-al-Nasir and a partner to the Nonaligned Movement, of which the two leaders were founders. At the same time, the two are old fighters and strugglers, each in his region; they had the same concerns and they were struggling for the sake of largely identical principles—namely, fighting colonialism, imperialism, and the influence of the big powers. Haykal says: We were staying at a guest house in the well-known island of Brijuni. As usual, I woke up early in the morning to listen to world news from radio stations. I heard in the news that a military coup in Baghdad had overthrown monarchy in Iraq. There were no details.

Haykal adds that he went to 'Abd-al-Nasir's wing. He knocked at the door while 'Abd-al-Nasir, who was with his wife, was asleep. That was the first time 'Abd-al-Nasir took his wife with him on a visit abroad, and it was because of his strong and special relationship with the Yugoslav president. 'Abd-al-Nasir opened the door while still in his pyjamas. Haykal greeted him and told him he had heard that a coup had overthrown the monarchy in Iraq. 'Abd-al-Nasir put on his bathrobe over his pyjamas and left with Haykal to the sitting room to hear more details.

At 0830 the same day, President Tito arrived. He also sat down to listen and to learn about the news reaching them through the competent Yugoslav institutions. President 'Abd-al-Nasir then decided to return to Egypt by sea. They left Brijuni, but after three hours on board the ship they received a message from the Yugoslav president informing them that their ship might be exposed to a provocative act by the American forces at sea. Tito proposed that President 'Abd-al-Nasir should think of a more secure way to travel to Egypt.

After discussing the subject with those accompanying him, 'Abd-al-Nasir decided to return to Brijuni with the prominent members of the delegation. 'Abd-al-Nasir's family and the other members of the delegation were asked to continue the voyage to Egypt. 'Abd-al-Nasir and the prominent members returned to Brijuni on the other ship accompanying them on the trip. After discussing the issue with President Tito, they decided to head for Moscow to explore the opinion and stand of the Soviets. They boarded the plane and headed for Moscow where they arrived in the evening. At 1000 the next day, Khrushchev sat with them to discuss the coup in Iraq, what would happen, what would be the West's stand, what were the possibilities of Western interference to foil the coup, and what would be Soviet stand and reaction?

Haykal says: During the 12 hours of talks, Khrushchev repeated the following many times to President 'Abd-al-Nasir: "Tell the Iraqi revolutionaries to say, through the radio station, and to keep repeating that they do not plan to introduce changes in the oil policy." Khrushchev added: "Tell them that we cannot do anything for them in case the West interferes in the issue. The only thing we can do is to conduct military maneuvers in the southern part of Eastern Europe. This may or may not be taken into consideration by the West." Khrushchev added that he was in London in 1955 in response to an invitation from British Prime Minister Eden, and that during the talks on the Middle East and the Arabian Gulf, Eden told him that they [the British] and the Americans had made an irrevocable decision; namely, that they were prepared to enter a world war if oil resources in the Gulf were

threatened. This is what the British prime minister said in 1955 to the Soviet premier when the USSR was an established fact and when it was strongly confronting the West in general and America in particular. So, what happens when the USSR retreats and vanishes, and when America becomes the only superpower in the world?

I had personally heard from those who lived during the monarchy and the Nuri al-Sa'id era, which constitutes 38 years of Iraq's modern history, whether we like or not, that Nuri al-Sa'id would accept criticism and objections on everything, but rejected and became angry when someone spoke about Iraq's oil policy or the situation of the Iraq Petroleum Company. After a while, I knew the reason. The current situation, and the recent past further clarifies this.

We all know the reaction and the flood of statements. This flood and these statements were not restricted to denunciations and condemnations, but there were preparations that were quicker than the words in these statements. While admitting that the reactions of some quarters in the West have been based on principles, the clear fact was that decisionmaking in the West in general did not act for the sake of principles. Therefore, there has been a lot of talk about a big country swallowing a small one. At the same time, there has been much talk about a big regional power that has imperialist demands and ambitions in its environs.

At the same time, there has been talk about a new world order that either asserts itself through actions, or else all principles of international relations and dealings whose bases have been laid down since the establishment of the United Nations would collapse. There has been much talk, and a comparison was made between Iraq and Nazi Germany, fascist Italy, and militarized Japan. We all know the reason and, subsequently, the objective of all this talk, all these reactions, and the absence of resolutions. Furthermore, there has been a strong desire to black out and hide this objective. The objective of all this was oil. We all know that for oil, Washington and London chose the war option after the crisis started, but they faced difficulties. The most important of these difficulties was how to present their option to the U.S. and British public as a option for oil, because when the people are asked to sacrifice their blood for a specific objective, this objective should be presented in a noble way that gives more value to the blood that people will sacrifice for its sake.

For this reason, the word oil disappeared and the door was opened wide for the idea of defending the new world order, UN principles, and international law and relations that are based on the principles set by the United Nations for international dealings and resolving of problems among states, etcetera. In addition to this, there was talk about self-determination, the people's rights of freedom and self-determination. Thus, and in order to hide the word oil and portray the objective in a noble manner, these methods were used because there is nothing as noble in oil as in the blood the people sacrifice. This is what Mr. Haykal says in his book "The Gulf War: Illusions of Strength and Victory".

As is known, the factors of conflict in the world accumulate, and at a certain crucial moment a boiling situation is followed by explosion. It is also known that oil is a permanent element in all problems, particularly in the Arab world, and is the reason for dividing the Arab world the way it was after the World War II. Oil has been affected by the crises and the crises have been affected by oil, there is no difference.

Mr. Haykal says in his book that 'Abd-al-Rahman 'Azzam Pesha, the one who had the idea of the Arab League and who is one of the most prominent of its founders and its first secretary general, is the one who thought that Arab oil can be used to serve political objectives, the same as it is serving the economic requisites of others. Amid the circumstances in which Israel was set up in 1948, 'Abd-al-Rahman 'Azzam Pesha went to meet King 'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud of Saudi Arabia suggesting to him that he use oil to pressure the West in favor of Arab rights in Palestine. At that time, King 'Abd-al-'Aziz's assessment was that he did not see a link between the two issues.

The discussions between the two went on for a long time. Then King 'Abd-al-'Aziz said with the frankness of an old bedouin fighter: "I do not understand what you are talking about. We did not know that there was oil on our land. A foreigner came and told us that there was oil on our land. Similarly, we did not know how to extract it from the deep underground. The foreigner had to do this for us. Furthermore, we did not know how to sell it in the market. The foreigner had to do this for us, too. After the oil had been sold, he took his share of the revenues and gave us ours. Why then do you ask me to punish him?"

It is now clear how oil could have been used during the first war the Arabs waged in their modern history. However, it was not used in that war.

In the 1956 battle, oil was a factor, given the importance of the Suez Canal, which was the most important crossing for the Western world. That is why it was the scene of fighting. However, oil was not involved in the battle as a separate factor.

In the 1967 war, oil was involved further in the war, albeit according to a formula that did not go beyond providing support for the countries largely affected by the war, the frontline states facing Israel. However, it was not employed in the war as a decisive and separate factor. That is, oil production was not halted. It continued to reach its markets in the West.

Mr. Haykal says: What did President 'Abd-al-Nasir say in reply to the calls raised during the 1967 war, calling for cutting off oil supplies to the West? After examining the idea for a long time, President 'Abd-al-Nasir came up with a different idea. He said that the oil-producing Arab states cannot accept a halt in their oil production. If the

Arabs were to continue the fighting, President 'Abd-al-Nasir contended, oil supplies must continue, particularly if part of its revenues could be earmarked for supporting the war effort. This was the formula King Faysal received. It was endorsed at the Khartoum Arab summit in September 1967. At that summit, the oil-producing Arab states pledged to pay 250 million pounds sterling per year to support the frontline states facing Israel, which then were Egypt, Syria, and Jordan.

In these three battles, we note that oil was a bit detached from the scenes of conflict.

Afterward, we saw that subsequent battles were clearly linked to the battles preceding them, the ones already mentioned. Indeed, these battles constitute a continuous line to what happened on 2 August 1990 and what came afterward. This symmetric and continuous line of development will, at least, continue up to the end of the century, unless a huge international upheaval takes place, which is unlikely.

The first battle that was linked to what happened on 2 August 1990 was the 1973 war, in which oil was effectively used to bolster the acts of politics and arms. The West believed that the Arabs crossed red lines when they used oil as a major asset in the conflict against Israel's supporters, foremost among which was the United States, of course. In a sense, oil was used as a factor against Israel.

The second battle was the eight-year Iraq-Iran war, 1980-1988, which had a great effect on the oil issue. Suffice it to say that the war broke out between two important oil countries, which are rated the second and third oil producing countries in the Middle East. The financing of the two countries depended on their oil revenues, as Muhammad Hasanayn Haykal mentioned in his latest book, "Illusions of Strength and Victory." We are all aware—and each has his own sources of information—of the importance of oil to both countries and how each concentrated on destroying the oil facilities of the other because of their pivotal importance to the war effort. We are also aware how the same war was a good cover and a suitable means of massing the Western fleets in the Gulf region. We must not forget that the Government of Kuwait paved the way for these fleets to come to the region under the pretext of protecting Kuwaiti oil ships from Iranian attacks.

The third war was the Gulf war which was launched under the pretext of liberating the "peaceful" and small state of Kuwait. In the final analysis and despite the short time that has elapsed since the cease-fire, it is obvious that this war was launched because of oil and nothing else. It has long been known and it is obvious today that the West has always been prepared to wage a war for Middle East oil and to ensure its flow and transfer to its markets and civilian and military plants. This Western preparedness for war is caused by two factors, both strategic but one is more important than the other. The first is the strategic importance of oil to the West, and the second is the importance of an oil surplus.

This importance and that preparedness are known to the other side which stood in the face of the West for several decades. The Soviet Union recognized the West's oil interests. Indeed, the Soviet Union was well aware that Middle East oil would be one of the primary and most important causes of a nuclear war if the West felt that there was something threatening oil in the Middle East or in the Gulf region. What I have mentioned about Khrushchev's remarks in this regard to President Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir in 1958 was clear and frank enough.

The only way is to struggle and work in light of realistic factors and aspirations, which should be connected but not governed by reality. These factors and aspirations should be dynamic in an acceptable, well-understood, and practical way that should not give others the impression that their interests are threatened, that they are in danger, or have to kill us before we subject them to slow death.

Sources of information:
1. Personal interview with Muhammad Hasanayn Haykal
2. "The Gulf War—Illusions of Strength and Victory"
3. Lecture by Riyadh Najib al-Rayyis in the Arab Studies Center in London: "Arabs Without Oil—a Future View"

Spokesman Denies U.S. 'Lies' About Coup

JN0907193192 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1910 GMT 9 Jul 92

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Jul (INA)—An official spokesman in Baghdad has ridiculed a report published in today's NEW YORK TIMES to the effect that Iraqi authorities had uncovered an attempt by four officers to kill His Exellency President Saddam Husayn.

In a statement to INA, the spokesman said: It seems that the news fabricators in the U.S. Administration have been thrown into confusion and are fabricating a new story every day.

THE NEW YORK TIMES and U.S. officials said a week ago that a military brigade tried to advance on Baghdad from al-Taji and that the attempt was foiled. They then created another story that President Saddam Husayn had uncovered the attempt before it began. They also spoke about another story in which they claimed that Jordan is involved, with the United States, in the attempt.

The spokesman added: Today, the U.S. Administration fabricated a new story regarding an ambush officers laid for the car of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn. We do not know what lies the U.S. Administration will fabricate tomorrow or the day after tomorrow.

The spokesman went on to say: The criminal U.S. Administration will remain immersed in its tyranny and sick imagination, while Saddam Husayn will remain a thorn in the side of colonialism, Zionism, and their

agents, because Saddam Husayn is not only a ruler, but a historic leader around whom the Iraqi people as well as the sons of the Arab nation rally.

Assembly 'Strongly Regrets' Turkish Bill

JN0907181992 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1645 GMT 9 Jul 92

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Jul (INA)—The National Assembly strongly regrets the Turkish Grand National Assembly's endorsement of a bill submitted by the Turkish National Security Council that proposes the extension of the presence of the U.S.-Atlantic Zionist alliance forces in southeastern Turkey.

In a statement issued today, the National Assembly said that Turkey could have supported the Iraqi people in their ordeal, given that Iraq is very eager to promote its ties with neighborly Turkey, particularly as the ties between the two countries have set an ideal example in the history of the Middle Eastern states.

The statement noted that the agreements concluded between Iraq and Turkey could have been implemented in the interest of the two countries' peoples in light of the current circumstances which are marked by the dominance of a unipolar world order that only reflects and promotes the interests of the United States, as well as some European powers, that will view Turkey as a country with an Islamic and Middle Eastern identity. Consequently, these powers will create artificial entities that will generate terrorism and bring about instability in the Middle East.

The assembly statement continued: Friendly Turkey is one of the key states neighboring Iraq. For a long time, its people have been linked to the Iraqi people by religious, political, and economic ties. As for political influences originating from outside our region, they have failed to undermine these ties. Iraqi-Turkish ties developed in the aftermath of the 17-30 July 1968 revolution, particularly under the political leadership under His Excellency President Saddam Husayn, who accorded the friendly Turks his utmost concern and care. The result of this concern and care was the establishment of strong ties with the Turkish people. The Iraqi and Turkish peoples also managed to resolve many bilateral issues without the intervention of foreign powers. As a result of this, Iraqi officials visited Turkey, even when Iraq was experiencing critical times. This was prompted by a concern for maintaining the nature of the developed ties existing between the two countries and also for preventing foreign powers from weakening bilateral ties.

In its statement, the National Assembly went on to say: Some foreign powers attempted to weaken the bilateral ties, particularly after the August 1990 events. These powers managed to put pressure on the world body to make it issue a series of unfair resolutions against Iraq, including, for example, Resolution 661, something which exposed its people, and their women, elderly, and children, to starvation and sickness. Under these pressures, another resolution called Resolution 687 was issued. This resolution provided for the use of all conceivable means against Iraq. The result of this was the destruction of Iraq's infrastructure, attacks on residential neighborhoods, and intervention in domestic affairs, all of which reflect a violation of and a departure from the rules, principles, and norms of international law.

The economic sanctions against Iraq, it added, are comparable to the anti-Turkey U.S. military embargo that has been in place since February 1975, and which has had a considerable economic impact.

The aggression mounted against our country has much in common with the 1919-1922 aggression against Turkey. Just as our Turkish friends managed to force the British forces from Istanbul, Izmir, and Samsun at a huge cost, Iraq has survived this tough phase of its contemporary history.

Under the circumstances, the statement went on, there is a deeply held conviction in Iraq that as a friend, Turkey will make every effort toward having the embargo against the 18 million Iraqis lifted. Indeed, we had expected Turkey, as a friendly neighbor, to stand up for a just cause in international fora. Public opinion in Iraq had also counted on Turkey's Grand National Assembly not to endorse an extension of the presence of foreign troops in the country's southeastern regions, given that they did not come for the alleged mission of defending Kurds in northern Iraq, but to support separatists and terrorists in northern Iraq and southern Turkey.

This became clear after the European Parliament passed its resolution on the Kurds in Turkey in March and April 1992 in reaction to acts of violence following celebrations to mark Nowruz and its condemnation of the Turkish Armed Forces in southeastern Turkey, as well as the creation of a European-Turkish parliamentary committee to monitor the situation in Turkey. Plus it took up the subject with the human rights committee at Turkey's Grand National Assembly. The possibility should not be ruled out that the European Parliament and the European Council may, in coordination with allied forces, make a similar decision regarding the Armenians in Turkey.

Further on Situation of UN Inspection Team

'Protest Marches' Staged at Ministry

JN0907153692 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1500 GMT 9 Jul 92

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Jul (INA)—Protest marches have been staged along the street opposite the Agriculture and Irrigation Ministry building, condemning the provocative acts being conducted by the international inspection team against this building.

The marchers expressed their indignation over and condemnation of the provocative acts carried out by this

team. They also condemned the team's attempt to search the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation.

Moreover, the marchers shouted slogans condemning the criminal acts carried out by U.S. and British aircraft when they burned crops in the Ninawa Governorate, acts deemed a flagrant violation of Iraq's national sovereignty because they resulted in the burning of food for its people and undermined its efforts to achieve food security.

The marchers also shouted slogans and put up placards, expressing support for President Saddam Husayn and his wise leadership. They also affirmed their support for his leadership and renewed the pledge to remain faithful soldiers in defense of great Iraq.

Minister on 'Provocative' Action

JN0907175892 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1630 GMT 9 Jul 92

[Interview with 'Abd-al-Wahhab Mahmud, minister of agriculture and irrigation, from the "Highlights on the News" program; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Mahmud] In fact, we are astonished by such an unjustifiable act. In fact, the inspection teams that have come to this ministry are making provocations. We consider it a terrorist act, and a conspiracy by the United States against Iraq. As you know, the Agriculture Ministry is one of the oldest ministries in Iraq, concerned with the affairs of farmers and agriculture. We are a civil ministry that has nothing to do with any resolutions of the Security Council. We do not have any link with Resolution 687 whatsoever.

This act is considered childish and provocative. We deem it unjustifiable. It has been denounced by all the Iraqi people and any anyone who has a link with agriculture. It is something strange [word indistinct].

As you know, we work out agricultural plans, follow up these plans, and assess services to farmers. There are no secrets in our ministry or in any of its departments. All its statistics are being published. Its plans are known by all and are published by Arab and international agricultural organizations. All our reports go to these organizations and there are no secrets in this respect. By coming in such a provocative way, the inspection teams are making a provocation and a fabricated clamor to hide the failure of the U.S. regime in its fight against Iraq.

[Words indistinct] rallying behind our militant leader Saddam Husayn in drawing out what his excellency decided for us in agriculture and in all fields. God willing, Iraq will gain victory through the efforts of all virtuous Iraqi workers. This provocative act will only increase our determination to work and produce. The convoy goes on and is not concerned with barking dogs.

Saddam Receives Greetings From Yasir 'Arafat

JN0707200092 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 7 Jul 92

[Text] President Saddam Husayn has received a cable of congratulations from his brother Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, on the new Hegira year. Following is the text of the cable:

Your Excellency, Brother President Saddam Husayn: Blessed greetings. On the occasion of the new Hegira year, which has been marked by our Arab and Islamic nation, and on behalf of our Palestinian Arab people and my brother members of the PLO Executive Committee, I am pleased to extend to your excellency, and through you, to your esteemed government and fraternal people our sincere brotherly greetings.

On this blessed occasion, which bears major lessons and significance in the life of our glorious nation, we beseech God Almighty to grant you continued health and happiness, to restore to the fraternal Iraqi people their strength to achieve the aspired glory, progress, and prosperity, and to grant our Arab and Islamic nation unity so that it can attain the status it is worthy of as a nation of great civilization and ancient history.

We also beseech God to grant our steadfast people further faith, patience, steadfastness, and support to enable them to continue their holy jihad and blessed intifadah under the PLO, their sole, legitimate representative, to liberate their land and holy places from the claws of the brutal Israeli occupation and to exercise their national rights, headed by their rights to repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of their independent state with holy Jerusalem as its capital.

As I reiterate our most heartfelt congratulations, I wish your excellency continued health and happiness and the fraternal Iraqi people well-being, progress, and prosperity. God's peace and blessings be upon you.

[Signed] Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee

Leader of Jordanian Trade Federation Received

JN0607085192 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0730 GMT 6 Jul 92

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Jul (INA)—Prime Minister Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi received Khalid Shuraym, chairman of the General Federation of Trade Unions in Jordan, yesterday.

Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi praised the Jordanian workers' heroic position and their support for their brothers in Iraq. He noted that the march of revolution and reconstruction will never stop as long as the Iraqis are determined to reconstruct what was destroyed by the treacherous 30-state aggression, led by America.

The prime minister stressed that the Iraqis are working in accordance with their wise leadership's instructions and the principles of their great party in order to fulfill the aspirations of their Arab nation.

Trade Federation Affirms Support

JN0807101592 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 0300 GMT 8 Jul 92

[Text] The General Federation of Jordanian Trade Unions has reiterated its full solidarity with the Iraqi people in their confrontation of the conspiracies being hatched by the Arab nation's enemies and its willingness to contribute, using all possible ways and means, toward breaking the unjust blockade imposed on them.

In a statement cosigned by Khalid Yusuf Shuraym, chairman of the General Federation of Jordanian Trade Unions, and Fadil Mahmud Gharib, chairman of the General Federation of Iraqi Trade Unions, at the conclusion of talks between the two sides, the Jordanian Federation hailed the jihad stand demonstrated by the Iraqi people under leader President Saddam Husayn in vindicating the Arab nation's values and honor as well as its fateful causes.

The two federations condemned the heinous crime committed by U.S. and British aircraft when they burned thousands of dunums of land planted with wheat and barley in villages in the Ninawa Governorate.

The joint statement urged Arab and international organizations to put firm pressure on governments to make them lift the unjust blockade being imposed on children, women, and the elderly in Iraq and to make food and medicines available to them.

The two sides affirmed that workers in both Iraq and Jordan support their brethren, the Libyan workers, in their confrontation of the imperialist schemes, which aim to undermine fraternal Libya's security and sovereignty and to tighten the embargo on it.

'Mounting Tension' Reported in Ties With Jordan

NC0907183092 (Clandestine) Voice of the Kurdistan Revolution Radio in Arabic 1700 GMT 9 Jul 92

[Text] There is mounting tension in Iraqi-Jordanian ties, particularly since the news of the (?failed coup against the regime in) Baghdad. The Jordanian Government has built an earth barrier along the Iraqi-Jordanian border. There has been a flurry of political and military activity in the Jordanian capital over the past two days. According to (?journalists) connected with the Jordanian Government, relations between the two countries are heading toward complete rupture. The Iraqi Government has been blatantly interfering in the kindgom's affairs and pressuring it to show more support for Iraqi stands. Long lines of trucks have formed along the border between the two countries, awaiting permission to cross.

Saddam Celebrates With Salah-al-Din Villagers

JN0907191292 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 9 Jul 92

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn spent the day amidst the overflowing affection of the citizens, their pride in the leader, and their joy over the meeting they had with him. The leader president, may God protect him, visited a village in Salah-al-Din Governorate. Once citizens knew of his excellency's arrival in the village, they came in large numbers to welcome his visit. They expressed their joy over the visit with folk dances and songs of love and allegiance. The citizens affirmed their determination to continue the jihad under the banner of God is Great upheld by their courageous leader, the knight of glory and dignity.

His excellency the leader president fired several shots in the air to express his firm determination to continue the struggle until certain victory, God willing.

His excellency the leader president shared his people's joy by taking part in their folk dances. Afterward, and when his excellency the president was being seen off, he was accorded the same hospitality and warmth shown to him when he arrived in the village. Citizens shouted slogans singing his praise, women yodeled, and the elderly prayed for him, while the children were happy.

Rabin Informs Officials of Government Formation

TA1007101692 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 10 Jul 92

[Text] Knesset Member Yitzhaq Rabin has informed the president that he has succeeded in forming a government, as he pledged to do one week ago. Mr. Rabin spoke with President Herzog over the telephone. He also sent letters to the president and the Knesset speaker stating that he has managed to form a government. Rabin asked the Knesset speaker to handle all the necessary arrangements to enable the new government to receive the Knesset's confirmation.

Rabin, Meretz Leader View Coalition Agreement

TA0907193092 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 9 Jul 92

[Text] After a day of ups and downs in the negotiations, Meretz and SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] are tonight signing coalition agreements with Labor. At this stage, the NRP [National Religious Party] intends to sit on the opposition benches and United Torah Jewry is holding up its signature. Our party affairs correspondent Hanan 'Azran reports from Labor headquarters in Tel Aviv:

[Begin recording] [Yitzhaq Rabin] This is only the first stage of the agreements that will permit the establishment of a government. I believe we went through a special election campaign with very impressive results for you [Meretz] and for us. I believe that the election results brought about a feeling of change that the people have so longed for. To my regret, that atmosphere has still not been translated into a system of decisions on the national level that would have made the process of cobbling together a government much easier: the change in the electoral system and direct election of the prime minister by the entire public. We are, however, starting by laying the foundations for the next government. Thank you.

[Meretz leader Shulamit Aloni] I would like to point out that these elections gave the public a feeling of rejuvenation. My wish for you, Yitzhaq, is that you lead this government for four years, and that during those years you carry out what we promised the public and fulfill the hopes we gave them, and that there will be a renaissance of a democratic, prosperous society that lives in peace with its neighbors. I believe that it can be done, and I wish, for all of us, that it will be done. Thank you.

['Azran] That was the signing ceremony that took place about 30 minutes ago. In the room behind me, the Labor and Meretz negotiating teams are still locked in. I am holding the coalition agreement, which is available to anyone. The following are the main points: Meretz will have three ministers, and by 1400 tomorrow it will have to decide which other two portfolios it wants, besides the education and culture portfolio, which will go to Knesset Member [MK] Shulamit Aloni. Meretz will have to chose from energy and infrastructure, communications, immigrant absorption, and tourism. That is part of the accord. The agreement also has an accompanying letter or appendix. The issue I want to refer to is the Palestinian issue. Under the accord, Meretz will be able to express its position on the permanent solution to the Palestinian problem. The main points on this are: recognition of the right of self-determination for the Palestinian people on the West Bank and Gaza Strip; a readiness to respect the decision of the Palestinian people in favor of federation or confederation with Jordan or the right to an independent and demilitarized Palestinian state; and—the third clause—not rejecting the PLO's participation in the next stages of the peace negotiations after the PLO proves by its declarations and, especially, by its actions that it recognizes Israel and has ceased terrorism. That is the letter, which also has several other clauses. Had it not been appended to the coalition agreement, Meretz would not have accepted it.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1900 GMT on 9 July reports that the letter also says that "Meretz will be able to present a motion in the Knesset to amend the law banning meetings with the PLO if the law is not amended within six months of the government's establishment. The appendix also states that any decision on setting up new settlements or expanding existing settlements in the territories will be approved by the government."]

Later tonight, SHAS representatives are expected here. They are expected to sign the coalition agreement tonight. The picture of the coalition negotiations, however, is still not complete. It is not clear what will happen with Tzomet. There was a suspension in the talks with Tzomet today. Tomorrow a summit meeting, if we can call it that, will take place between Yitzhaq Rabin and Refa'el Eytan at 1300. If the two reach an understanding, the road will be paved for Tzomet to return to the negotiations.

The NRP announced officially today that it will be in opposition. It did not find a way to overcome the gap with Labor.

United Torah Jewry is waiting to see what happens—as it has internal problems—before deciding whether to join the coalition or to boycott it over MK Aloni receiving the education and culture portfolio.

Meretz Appointees to Ministries

TA1007111592 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 10 Jul 92

[Text] Meretz has announced that Knesset Member [MK] Amnon Rubinstein will be minister of energy and infrastructure and MK Ya'ir Tzaban will be the minister for immigrant absorption. Our correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that MK Ran Kohen will probably be a deputy minister.

Labor-Meretz Coalition Agreement

TA1007084692 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 10 Jul 92 p 3

["Text of the Coalition Agreement Between Labor and Meretz"]

[Text] 1. The two factions have reached an agreement on the establishment of a coalition between them to last for the full term of the 13th Knesset.

2. The incorporation of an additional faction into the coalition after the government is set up will require the agreement of the two factions.

3. On the basis of the faction ratio of one cabinet minister per four Knesset members [MK's], Meretz will have three cabinet ministers and at least one deputy minister as follows:

A. Education and culture minister.

B. Two ministers in charge of two of the following ministries:

1) Energy and Infrastructure; 2) Communications; 3) Immigrant Absorption; 4) Tourism.

C. The Meretz faction's ratio of deputy ministers will be approximately equal to Labor's ratio.

4. A minister on behalf of Meretz will serve as a member of the Ministerial Committee on National Security Affairs (the inner cabinet).

5. A Meretz representation will be included in all governmental committees dealing with issues pertaining to the rearrangement of national priorities with regard to development towns and areas.

6. A minister on behalf of Meretz will serve as a member of the Judicial Appointments Committee.

7. Meretz will recommend a suitably qualified candidate for a satisfactory diplomatic post in the framework of the political quota of Foreign Ministry appointments.

8. A Meretz MK will serve as a deputy Knesset speaker.

9. A Meretz MK will serve as a Knesset committee chairman.

10. An agreed upon addendum, referring to the government policy guidelines, is appended to the agreement.

11. Both parties undertake to adhere firmly and sincerely to the provisions of the agreement.

Rider to the Coalition Agreement Between Labor and Meretz

1. Meretz (hereafter the faction) will have the right to express its stand on the issue of the permanent solution of the Palestinian problem, the main points of which are:

A. Recognition of the right to self-determination of the Palestinian people in the West Bank and Gaza Strip areas.

B. Willingness to honor the Palestinian nation's decision in favor of either a federative or confederative framework with Jordan or its right to an independent and demilitarized Palestinian state.

C. Nonrejection of the inclusion of the PLO in the coming stages of the peace negotiations, once the PLO proves by declaration, but mainly by deed, that it recognizes Israel and renounces terrorism.

—If the law banning meetings with persons identified with the PLO is not amended within six months of the establishment of the government, Meretz will have the right to submit a bill on amending said law in a way that it will not incriminate Israelis holding bona fide meetings with Palestinians with the objective of promoting the peace process and understanding between the two nations.

—The government will occasionally examine and investigate all procedures applied in the territories in order to determine that they meet the criteria of the rule of law, of respect for human rights, and of Israel's international commitments, with an emphasis on the humanitarian provisions of Fourth Geneva Convention.

—Decisions concerning new settlements and significant expansions will be approved by the government.

—If a committee on settlement affairs is established, its decisions may be appealed in the full cabinet forum.

—Meretz may raise the issue of Iqrit and Bar'am [Galilee villages from which Arab Christian residents were evacuated between 1947 and 1949 and to which they claim title] in the cabinet at an agreed date but no later than within a year.

—Meretz is entitled to freedom of vote on issues pertaining to the reform of the electoral and government system, including the electability threshold.

SHAS Joins Coalition; Total of 62 Seats

TA1007044392 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 10 Jul 92

[Excerpts] Yitzhaq Rabin has put together a coalition with two other parties—Meretz and SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim]—and will command at the very least 62 seats in the Knesset. Last night Labor signed an agreement with the orthodox SHAS party, after signatures were put earlier in the evening to an accord with the third largest party in the House, Meretz.

The SHAS agreement provides for the establishment in the Education Ministry of a special administration for orthodox education and culture, with equal status to that of the state religious stream. The new administration will

be responsible directly to the deputy minister of education, who will be a member of SHAS. A Qol Yisra'el reporter says that SHAS views this as the most important aspect of the coalition agreement signed with Labor last night. The agreement also states that the prime minister will serve as minister for religious affairs. This means that even if the National Religious Party ultimately joins the coalition, the religious affairs portfolio will not revert to it.

Labor's Hayim Ramon said the accord with SHAS included aspects relating to religion and state and housing which would be part of the government guidelines. [passage omitted]

Last night, the president of the Council of Torah Sages, the Wizniczer rebbe, banned the United Torah Judaism Party from joining the coalition. The reason given was that the Education portfolio had gone to Shulamit Aloni. [passage omitted]

Labor-SHAS Coalition Agreement

TA1007081392 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 10 Jul 92 p 3

["Text of the Coalition Agreement Between Labor and SHAS"]

[Text] 1. The two factions have reached an agreement on the establishment of a coalition between them to last for the full term of the 13th Knesset.

2. The incorporation of an additional faction into the coalition after the government is set up will require the agreement of the two factions.

3A. Legislation on basic laws that have repercussions regarding religious matters requires the prior agreement of the factions making up the coalition.

B. Legislation on religious matters will not be repealed or approved without the agreement of all the factions making up the coalition. This clause will be included in each of the coalition accords to be signed between Labor and factions joining the coalition.

C. Any contractual peace treaty that calls for ceding territory currently under the sovereignty or control of the State of Israel to another party to the treaty or to any third party will be decided by a national referendum or elections for the Knesset and the prime minister, which will take place prior to the signing of the peace accord. The manner in which the issue will be decided will be coordinated between the two factions.

D. The SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] faction will vote on foreign affairs and defense issues in the Knesset according to the resolutions of the Council of Torah Scholars.

4. On the basis of a quota system, according to which there will be one minister to every four Knesset members from each faction, SHAS will have one minister and two deputy ministers, as follows:

A. Interior minister.

B. Deputy minister of education and culture.

C. Deputy minister in the Construction and Housing Ministry.

If the ministry is not headed by a Labor minister, the deputy minister representing SHAS will serve in another ministry headed by Labor to be agreed upon between the prime minister and the SHAS faction.

5A. A department (administration) for ultra-Orthodox education and culture will be set up within the framework of the Education and Culture Ministry with a status identical to that of the department (administration) for state religious education.

B. The administration will include all the ministry units that deal with ultra-Orthodox education at all levels and religious and ultra-Orthodox culture.

C. The administration will come under the SHAS deputy minister.

D. The head of the department will be appointed by the government at the recommendation of the SHAS deputy minister.

6. The prime minister will serve as minister for religious affairs, and a deputy minister will not be appointed to the ministry.

7. The SHAS minister will serve as a member of the Ministerial Committee on National Security Affairs (the inner cabinet) and as the government's representative on the Religious Judges Appointments Committee.

8. A SHAS Knesset member will serve as Knesset deputy speaker.

9. A SHAS Knesset member will be elected one of the two Knesset representatives on the Religious Judges Appointments Committee.

10. SHAS representation on the Knesset committees will be based on a proportion of its strength, and in any event, SHAS will be represented on the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee and the Finance Committee.

11. Within the framework of the quota on political appointments in the Foreign Ministry, a person with suitable qualifications to serve in a fitting diplomatic post will be appointed at SHAS recommendation.

12. If the composition of the Broadcasting Authority's Board of Directors is changed, SHAS status in that body will be maintained.

13. Attached to the accord is an inviolable agreed upon addendum relating to the basic guidelines of government policy.

14. The two factions undertake to follow the directives of the accord loyally and honestly.

Agreement Between SHAS and Labor

1. Clause 8.1 of the basic guidelines will be amended and the word "and family" will be added after the words "will take their economic situation into account."

2. Clause 8.5 will be worded as follows: The government will act speedily to build rental apartments that young couples and the homeless can afford and will view this as the preferred solution to the housing shortage in Israel.

3. A subclause will be added to Clause 9 on education and culture, stating: The government will act to encourage and enhance religious culture.

4. Clause 8.6 will be worded as follows: The mortgage level for all eligible persons will constitute a significant part of the cost of an apartment.

6. Religion and state:

6.1 The unity of the people and an appropriate social life call for cultivating tolerance and mutual understanding between all sectors of the population and freedom of conscience and religion. The government will avoid any religious or antireligious coercion from any side and will assure the public religious requirements of the residents without any influence stemming from political affinity.

6.2 The defense minister will appoint a team headed by him to investigate and determine the criteria for procedures for granting deferments of military service for yeshiva studies with the aim of preventing the exploitation of the existing arrangements in that area.

9.12A The government will base the allocation of budgets—including the development budget allocated for culture; to elementary school, high school, and higher education; and to yeshiva students and religious schools—on a uniform and equal basis.

9.12B The prime minister will appoint a committee to investigate and implement that which is mentioned in Clause 9.12.

9.13 All the special allocations for religious institutions will be canceled. The Arrangements Law in the State Economy (legislative amendments) of 1992 will be fully implemented.

Hamas, Fatah Agree on 'Temporary Truce' in Gaza

TA0907180592 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1700 GMT 9 Jul 92

[Report by Mark Weiss]

[Text] Representatives of Fatah and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] in the Gaza Strip have agreed to a temporary truce while efforts continue to hammer out a pact that will put an end to the factional fighting between the two groups. Army curfews on four refugee camps and the town of Khan Yunus helped restore calm today although tension remains high. Last night, masked assailants armed with knives and a pistol attacked one of the leading Fatah figures in the strip, As'ad al-Saftawi. Three attackers and al-Saftawi's two sons were wounded in the clash. At least one Gaza resident has been killed and dozens wounded in the factional violence, the worst between Palestinian groups since the start of the intifadah.

Meanwhile, the murder of Palestinians suspected of cooperating with the authorities by fellow Arabs continues. The latest victims are 60-year-old Gaza resident 'Abd-al-'Abdallah and 25-year-old Mahmud Jardat from the Samarian village of Silat al-Harithiyah. Both were abducted by masked assailants and shot in the head.

A general strike was observed throughout the territories today marking the 55th month of the intifadah.

Gaza Clash To Affect Delegation Composition

TA1007074292 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 10 Jul 92

[Text] The Israeli Arab newspaper AL-SINNARAH reported this morning that changes are to be expected in the composition of the Palestinian delegation to the peace negotiations. The paper writes that one of the senior Palestinian officials on the delegation asked the PLO leadership in Tunis to release him from his duties for personal reasons. AL-SINNARAH, however, asserts that the real reason for the request was the disagreements between the Palestinian organization and the violent clashes between Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Fatah. The PLO leadership refused to accede to the request.

Our Arab affairs correspondent Arye Gus reports that the PLO leadership is scheduled to convene within the next few days to discuss the results of the Labor party's victory in the Israeli elections.

Civil Rights Group Cites Progress, Challenges

TA0707124092 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 7 Jul 92 p A5

[Report by Yosi Torpstein]

[Excerpts] Juridically, the issue of civil rights in Israel has made progress in the past year, but the central problems in this sphere—mainly civil rights in the territories—remain rampant.

This conclusion is voiced by the 1991-92 report presented yesterday by the Association for Civil Rights in Israel [ACRI] at a news conference in Jerusalem. ACRI called on the new government to include the issue of civil rights in Israel and the territories in its guidelines.

According to the report, the Knesset has passed two basic laws in the field of civil rights: the Freedom of Occupation Law and the Law of Human Dignity and Freedom. In addition, four international charters were ratified: the Civil and Political Rights Charter, the Social and Economic

Rights Charter, the Charter Against Torture, and the Child's Rights Charter. The report stresses, however, that the ratification of international charters by the Government of Israel does not grant the charters legal validity in Israeli courts, for which Knesset legislation is required.

Progress has also been achieved in the wake of the decision to set up a Justice Ministry unit that will investigate complaints against policemen as well as the decision to empower the Justice Ministry to conduct investigations into the Shin Bet.

About 30 percent of ACRI activities dealt with the territories, in which, according to the report, collective punishment is still applied. That includes house demolition, deportation of Palestinians, and prolonged curfews that remain in effect even after their cause no longer exists.

The report also describes the use of illegal interrogation methods and violence against Palestinian suspects.

The report notes that ACRI has appealed to Military Judge Advocate Ilan Schiff with a request that an independent commission of inquiry be established into events in which wanted and masked men are killed by members of undercover army units.

The IDF investigation of such cases, according to ACRI chairman David Kretzmer, consists merely of collecting soldiers' evidence, which usually conflicts with the versions of other witnesses, mostly Palestinians. ACRI conducted investigations into several cases, demanding that in addition to soldiers' statements the IDF's investigative authorities take depositions from other eye witnesses. [passage omitted]

Another issue addressed by ACRI is administrative detentions. According to the report, the association has represented almost 800 detainees who have appealed against the administrative detention orders since the beginning of the intifadah. This number includes 223 cases over the past year. [passage omitted]

The ACRI report asserts that there is inequality between the Jewish and the Arab citizens of Israel and that services extended to the Arab sector are inferior by far. [passage omitted]

AL-AHRAM Report Called 'Cheap Intrigue'

JN0907120092 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 9 Jul 92 pp 1, 16

[Editorial: "The Israeli Flag Flies in the Skies of Cairo, Not Amman"]

[Text] When Egyptian newspapers, which are affiliated with the Camp David regime, stood in the Hafar al-Batin trench and shouted for joy, in line with the U.S. and Western press, for the 30-state aggression led by Bush against Iraq and the Arab nation, we said that this press had joined the line of the regime which participated in the 30-state aggression against its nation.

A large number of AL-AHRAM writers and correspondents, led by its chief editor, and the writers and correspondents of the other mercenary papers, joined the 30-state alliance to cheer the new Crusader aggression against our nation. They also wrote in the Saudi, Gulf, and others papers declaring their support for the petrodollar shaykhs and loyalty to the small dictatorships there and to applaud the arrival of the Crusader forces to spoliate our Arab and Islamic sanctities and pounce on our nation on its own ground. These same writers and correspondents also shouted for joy at the Israeli flag fluttering in the skies of Cairo. Therefore, it was not strange for them to shout for joy over the 30-state alliance and the oil shaykhs, even if this was against their own nation or against Egypt itself.

Jordan, which exerted strenuous efforts to achieve an Arab solution to the Gulf crisis away from foreign intervention and hostilities toward our nation, was not saved from the campaigns of AL-AHRAM and its mercenary writers and correspondents. It was the target of their unjust onslaught.

Because we, in Jordan, did not want to escalate Arab differences and conflicts, and refused to reply to these unjust campaigns which are paid in advance by the oil shaykhs, we also prevented ourselves from exposing the collusion and deviation of these papers and their writers and correspondents in the hope that they would stop, reconsider their calculations, and recover their senses. However, instead of doing so, they have continued and escalated their hostility and injustice toward Jordan, and fabricated slanders against it and against its leadership and people.

Just like any other hypocrite who deviated from the consensus of his nation, and who betrayed his career and duty, AL-AHRAM began to fabricate slanders and lies against Jordan. It claimed that talks were held between an official Jordanian delegation and future Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin on the future of the Israeli-Jordanian relations.

Such cheap intrigue by AL-AHRAM, its political editor, and its board of editors, which are known for their U.S. and Gulf inclinations, is part of the unjust campaign being launched by the Arabs' enemies against Jordan, the land of mobilization and steadfastness. It is an attempt to undermine Jordan's steadfastness and determination to adhere to its basic principles.

AL-AHRAM and its editorial staff have turned into a trumpet for the mercenary editors to allow them to make a big contribution to the campaign launched by the U.S. Administration and the oil shaykhs against Jordan—leadership and people. AL-AHRAM has become an obedient tool in the service of the new U.S. campaign aimed at subjugating Jordan and using it in the unjust attack on fraternal Iraq, particularly after Jordan rejected the deployment of international inspection forces on its territory to tighten the unjust blockade against fraternal Iraq.

AL-AHRAM, which lost its credibility when one of the symbols of Camp David became its chief editor, should have examined Jordan's position, which has never deviated from the consensus of its nation, or fought against it from the trench of its enemies. Jordan's position on the peace process is clear. It has participated in it based on the resolutions of the international legitimacy and the principle of land for peace. It has not responded to the Egyptian regime's repeated and frequent advice to build bridges and normalize relations with Israel for nothing in return.

Jordan rejected the Egyptian regime's "brokerage" against its nation and its fateful issues. It will continue to reject any stand that would serve the enemies of our nation or the "brokers" who stand in their trench. Moreover, AL-AHRAM and other mercenary papers should know that Jordan will never fulfill their hopes of contributing to strangling Iraq and starving its people and children regardless of the mercenary pressures and campaigns to which the AL- AHRAM staff contributes. They also must know that the Israeli flag is fluttering in the skies of Cairo, not Amman.

Kuwaiti Embassy Accused of Distributing Leaflets

TA0807175392 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1630 GMT 8 Jul 92

[Text] Our correspondent 'Abd-al-Wahhab Zahdi reports that Jordanian security sources are accusing the Kuwaiti Embassy in Amman of being responsible for the distribution of leaflets in Jordan that speak of a split between the Jordanians and the Palestinians in Jordan.

The newspaper ASHBAL, published in East Jerusalem, has written that the Jordanian Awqaf Ministry has asked preachers and clergymen in West Bank mosques to launch a campaign against Saudi rulers.

Nasrallah Urges Adherence to Jihad, Resistance

NC0907141592 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1300 GMT 9 Jul 92

[Text] At a celebration marking the anniversary of 'Ashura in Ba'labekk, Hizballah Secretary General Sayyid Hasan Nasrallah has called for adherence to jihad and resistance, maintaining that the enemy would not have withdrawn from Beirut, the southern suburb, al-Biqa', and the south had it not been for resistance operations.

On parliamentary elections, Nasrallah said: We are among those who are ready to sacrifice for the sake of God and ready to defend our people's right whatever the pressure exerted on us. We call on the Chamber of Deputies to pursue the public interest and not permit sectarianism and administrative corruption to be perpetuated in the country.

Fadlallah Criticizes Political Arguments

NC1007081692 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0715 GMT 10 Jul 92

[Text] In a sermon on the 'Ashura anniversary, 'Allamah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah said today that the ongoing political argument in Lebanon is intended to eliminate the resistance in Lebanon and the intifadah in Palestine, especially given the current situation with the United States, Europe, and the Arab world. This is being done so that a settlement can be arranged and Israel can rest free from any pressure. They want to end the resistance in Lebanon under the pretext of security and disarm it under the pretext of implementing al-Ta'if, he added.

Buwayz Interviewed on Peace, Israeli Attacks

NC0307162092 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1330 GMT 3 Jul 92

[Text] Beirut, 3 Jul (MENA)—Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has said that President Husni Mubarak enjoys such credibility and trust on the Arab and international levels that Egypt has a special role in formulating a new Arab and regional order. In addition, Egypt's serious participation in the peace process is needed to overcome the challenges and obstacles facing it. We in Lebanon sensed this important role during the various political circumstances that Lebanon and the Arab region have passed through, he said, adding: This emphasizes Egypt's weight as a basic pillar for future peace in the region. Egypt's international role at this stage is essential and important even though it is not participating in direct bilateral peace talks, Buwayz said.

In an exclusive statement to Fathi Sharif, the MENA correspondent in Beirut, Buwayz praised Egyptian-Lebanese political coordination, saying it has reached a high degree of understanding and harmony. He noted that bilateral political relations are distinguished, thanks to mutual trust, direct contacts between the leaders, and our constant meetings with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa. We have reached a common strategic view characterized by clarity, frankness, and objectivity, which will serve the two peoples and the entire Arab region.

Buwayz begins a visit to Cairo tomorrow to attend the Arab League emergency meeting requested by Lebanon to discuss the repeated Israeli acts of aggression against southern Lebanon. He said that the future stage is a historic and exceptional one and may be the most important political juncture in Arab history since the Yalta and Versailles conferences. He noted that to deal with these serious developments, the Arab countries need to overcome all sensitivities and contradictions and to put forward a common stand. He said this is important because resolutions passed by the peace conference will involve not only the participants but will be the stepping stone to the so-called new regional order and will lay firm foundations for future regional security and stability.

Buwayz noted that political Arab coordination over the peace talks is positive and advanced. The recent meetings of the Arab delegations in Beirut and Amman demonstrated a new method for dealing with the peace issue. The meetings were characterized by realism, frankness, and accurate assessments, and were completely free from oneupmanship, which shows that the Arabs now deal with regional and international crises in a realistic and flexible way, without thinking that this infringes on our national rights.

Buwayz noted that the 3 April meeting of Arab foreign ministers in Beirut succeeded in allowing the ministers to agree on certain points of contention. We agreed completely on an accurate method of dealing with the direct bilateral talks at the peace conference and agreed to accept certain contradictions and differences over the multilateral conference.

Buwayz discussed the reason for the escalation of the Israeli acts of aggression against south Lebanon, saying that whenever Israel feels that the Arabs are uniting, it escalates its aggression against south Lebanon to send a message to the Arab countries and to frustrate any Arab solidarity or understanding.

Asked about the necessity of convening an Arab League emergency meeting and the ideas he will put forward to the Arab foreign ministers, Buwayz said that the Lebanese file for the Cairo meeting includes a number of political, economic, and security issues. He noted that south Lebanon has become the only open Arab front with Israel. This constitutes a military bulge against the Arab countries from which a war might be launched against Lebanon, Syria, and the Arab region. The repeated Israeli threats against Syria demonstrate that south Lebanon will be used as a center to attack its territory. This situation affirms that the issue of south Lebanon is not only a Lebanese responsibility. The continued volatile situation in southern Lebanon may force the peace conference to stop.

Buwayz emphasized that the Lebanese Government strongly supports the south Lebanese people's resolve

and steadfastness against the Israeli aggression, which is aimed at forcing the remaining 400,000 Lebanese and 150,000 Palestinians in refugees camps to leave the area.

Buwayz added that the Lebanese Army currently stands in the same trench with the citizens of the south to defend them and respond to continuing Israeli artillery and air attacks. He explained that the citizens have been forced to bear arms to resist and defend themselves and their property and have refused to abandon their lands. He spoke of the burden that the government shoulders by allocating 20 percent of its budget to rebuild property damaged by the Israeli attacks and to compensate citizens' losses.

The Lebanese foreign minister added: For this reason, our request for Arab League action on this matter is designed to urge the Arab nation to bear its responsibilities vis-a-vis Lebanon's steadfastness, south Lebanon's resistance of Israeli aggression, and possible security and military flare-ups that might lead to a new regional war starting in the south.

Asked to comment on the new changes in Israel following the Labor Party's electoral victory and Yitzhaq Rabin's recent statements, Buwayz said: We have already warned several Arab countries that showed enthusiasm not to make concessions. We have announced that any peace must be comprehensive or nothing.

We do not believe, he added, that any Arab crisis can be resolved at the expense of other crises. We therefore reject the policy of isolating some of the issues discussed in the context of the peace process or giving some greater priority than others. We regard this as an erroneous policy.

Buwayz continued: The decision to make peace is an historic and unanimous one. No Arab official has the right to make such a decision unilaterally. No one can speak on behalf of all the Arabs. Peace must be an expression of inter-Arab solidarity and progress on all the peace issues must occur in concert so that the whole process can be credible.

He remarked that regional peace, based on the Madrid Conference principles, will not succeed if it is not just. He warned that any failure in this connection will produce further Arab extremism and despair, which will have adverse regional and international effects.

Minister Buwayz revealed the existence of persistent Israeli pressure on Lebanon, both through the peace negotiations or via international channels. The aim of this pressure, he said, is to make Lebanon sign a unilateral peace agreement with Israel. He explained that Lebanon's rejection of pressure and concessions is based on the need to implement UN Security Council Resolution 425 and secure Israel's unconditional withdrawal from the south.

Any optimism on my part, he added, hinges on whether the United States and the EC will play a fundamental role in dealing with the peace process as one integrated whole.

Buwayz continued: I would not bet on the Israeli Government's desire for peace, regardless of who forms this government, as much as I would bet on the world community's seriousness about pressuring Israel, especially in light of the new international mechanisms and the international community's basic role in the Gulf war.

Regarding the U.S. role in promoting Lebanese stability, the Lebanese foreign minister told MENA that the United States played a realistic and effective role in strengthening progress toward Lebanese national unity and peace. He added, however: We have witnessed U.S. support for implementing Resolution 425 as alluded to in the al-Ta'if agreement. However, it is necessary for the United States to pressure Israel to implement it, he concluded.

Trade Relations Discussed With Iranian Charge

NC0907144592 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1300 GMT 9 Jul 92

[Text] Economy and Trade Minister Dr. Samir al-Maqdisi today met Iranian Charge d'Affaires Homayun 'Alizadeh and discussed economic and trade relations between the two countries. 'Alizadeh said afterward that he extended an official invitation to Minister al-Maqdisi to visit Iran to work out a trade and economic agreement between the two countries. He also submitted a request to open an Iranian trade office in Beirut and expressed the hope that the Lebanese Government would participate in Iran's international fair.

Chamber Speaker Postpones Election Bill Debate

NC0907173892 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 9 Jul 92

[Excerpts] There was a political surprise at the Chamber of Deputies today. Chamber Speaker Husayn al-Husayni asked the deputies to postpone the debate on the draft law amending the election law. The chamber passed a number of draft laws concerning rents, retirement and separation from service, family compensation plan, and permits for the National Fund for Social Security.

Speaker al-Husayni attributed the postponement to the chamber's tight schedule and a desire to ensure that the election law meets requirements and the rules of debate. Speaking after the session, the speaker noted that there is no need to rush, particularly since the march of accord is the result of the will of all Lebanese people. He pointed out that a date for a new session to discuss the draft law will be fixed in light of completion of some of the draft laws now in the hands of the chamber. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Rashid al-Sulh, who attended the chamber's session, said that the tight schedule is the only reason for postponing the debate on the draft election law. He said he hopes the law will be enacted unanimously by the deputies because it seeks to stabilize democracy in Lebanon and strengthen and consolidate the parliamentary system.

Omani Minister Meets With Al-Asad, Khaddam

JN0907135592 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 9 Jul 92

[Excerpts] President Hafiz al-Asad received Omani Information Minister 'Abd-al-'Aziz Muhammad al-Rawwas at 1315 today. The meeting was attended by Information Minister Muhammad Salman, and Oman's Ambassador in Damascus 'Abdallah Bin-Muhammad al-Kharusi.

Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam also received Omani Information Minister 'Abd-al-'Aziz Muhammad al-Rawwas and his delegation at 1215 today. Present at the meeting were Information Minister Muhammad Salman and the Omani ambassador in Damascus.

During the meeting, the attendees reviewed the Arab situation in all its aspects and bilateral relations.

Meanwhile, the Governments of the Syrian Arab Republic and the Sultanate of Oman today signed an executive program for media activities for 1992-1993. [passage omitted]

The media program expressed the desire of the Syrian and Omani Governments to bolster fraternal relations. It also asserted confidence in the importance of mass media for bolstering bilateral ties in the media field in particular. The program also stressed the need to exchange visits and media expertise. It included activating the work of news agencies in the two countries to broaden the exchange of news and cover the activities and achievements of the two countries. [passage omitted]

Vice President Receives PNSF Delegation

JN0707183592 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 7 Jul 92

[Text] A Palestine National Salvation Front [PNSF] delegation met with Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam in Damascus today.

The PNSF delegation comprises Ahmad Jibril, 'Isam al-Qadi, 'Arabi 'Awwad, Talal Naji, Muhammad Khalifah, Abu-Khalid al-'Amlah, Fadl Shururu, and Abu-al-Qasim.

During the meeting, the two sides reviewed the Palestinian and Arab situations, placing special emphasis on developments in the glorious Palestinian intifadah, and the repercussions of the recent Zionist elections. The two sides' viewpoints were identical regarding Palestinian-Syrian relations, international developments, and the need to mobilize all resources to confront the future stage and its possible political developments, which are closely related to the struggle of Syria and the Palestinian revolution against the Zionist enemy and the hegemonic and liquidatory schemes across the region.

Paper Views Helsinki Summit, 'Zionism' Threat

JN1007063292 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 10 Jul 92

[From the press review]

[Text] In an editorial today on the current Helsinki summit on European security, the newspaper AL-BA'TH asks: If European security is the aim and objective of the Helsinki summit, is there any European who can confidently say that the continued conflict in the Middle East does not affect European security? When Israel rejects any effective European participation in the Middle East peace process, this means that Israel rejects Europe's peace and stability. This is because European security is linked to Mediterranean security, which is the security of the entire Middle East. When U.S. Defense Secretary Dick Cheney declares that the United States needs fixed bases in the Middle East to monitor Europe, this means that the cold war has not ended, but that its parties have merely changed.

AL-BA'TH reminds Western states of the NATO decision sanctioning the use of nuclear weapons in the Middle East if such a move is necessary for Western-NATO security. The paper says: The decision means sanctioning Israel's use of nuclear weapons—definitely against the Arabs. In such a case, Europe will not be safe. This is our interpretation of what U.S. Defense Secretary Cheney meant when he talked about monitoring Europe.

In its editorial, AL-BA'TH stresses that Zionism is the source of threat to Europe, the Middle East, and the world. Zionism is the factor of tension in light of its responsibility for all crises in Europe. If the Helsinki summit is sincere, let it investigate the motives behind the convocation of the Zionist congress in the NATO capital in a studied timing that coincides with the two most important summits—the summit of industrialized countries and the European summit.

India

Defense Official on Missile Production Program

BK0907073892 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 8 Jul 92

[Excerpts] The new agricultural policy is likely to be tabled in parliament during the current session. This was disclosed by the agriculture minister, Mr. Balram Jakhar, while addressing the economic editors conference which concluded in New Delhi today. [passage omitted]

Discussing the defense sector, the minister of state for defense, Mr. Krishnakumar told the editors that production of Prithvi and Trishul missiles will start next year, while Akash and Naag missiles will go into production by 1995. He said efforts are on to increase exports and also to diversify production of ordnance factories so that capacity utilization improves.

German Official Discusses Chemical Weapons Ban

BK0907155492 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 9 Jul 92

[Text] India has agreed to work closely with Germany to achieve a comprehensive convention to ban chemical weapons. The matter came up for discussion at a meeting with the visiting German commissioner for disarmament and arms control, Ambassador (Josef Holleck), and the senior officials of the External Affairs Ministry in the capital. The Indian side reiterated that any convention to ban chemical weapons should be nondiscriminatory and enjoy universal adherence. It should also completely ban development, production, possession, transfer and use of chemical weapons. Ambassador (Holleck) told the Indian side that the delegates attending the Geneva conference on disarmament, now underway, want an agreement to be reached in the current session itself.

'Second Generation' Insat 2A Satellite Launched

BK1007033892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 10 Jul 92

[Text] India's second generation multi-utility satellite Insat 2A has been launched successfully. The satellite was launched at 4:32 a.m. Indian Standard Time today by the Ariane rocket, 19 minutes after the liftoff from Kourou, French Guyana. The satellite was tracked by the master control facility at (Hassen) in Karnataka at 4:40 a.m.

Insat 2A is India's homemade communications satellite which has additional capacity for weather service and research and rescue, making it unique in the world. The 1,906 kg satellite is the 14th designed and built by the Indian Space Research Organization [ISRO] and is the heaviest Indian spacecraft to go into space.

Observers at the control center 12 km from the European Space Agency's launch pad at Kourou on the northeast coast of South America, said during the liftoff the ground appeared to shake. They said bright light lit up a cloudless equatorial night sky for more than six minutes.

ISRO chairman Mr. (Ua) Rao told newsmen at Kourou that the satellite is working extremely well. He said that crucial operations to deploy the satellite in its geostationary orbit and make it operational have already begun. He said this would be completed in 15 days. According to mission control, Kourou the liftoff was flawless.

The ISRO scientists said that Insat 2A has higher capability than the four satellites of the Insat 1 series. Besides providing the same telecommunications and television services as Insat 1, Insat 2 will give a boost to business communication. It will usher in the era of teleconferences, distance education, and satellite news gathering.

Commerce Minister Resigns After Securities Probe

BK1007032292 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 10 Jul 92

[Text] The Commerce Minister Mr. P. Chidambaram has resigned from the Union Council of Ministers. His resignation has been accepted. Mr. Chidambaram had submitted his resignation last Sunday to the prime minister, owning moral responsibility for having invested in the purchase of shares of (Fair Group) Financial Services, which is currently under investigation for its alleged involvement in the multi-crore securities scam. The president accepted the resignation last night on the advice of the Prime Minister Mr. Narasimha Rao.

In his resignation letter, Mr. Chidambaram had offered to step down if some investments made by him and his wife in the company caused any embarrassment to the government. Releasing the letter to the press yesterday, Mr. Chidambaram said that the investment of two and a half lakh rupees was made through (?cross) checks without suspecting any wrongdoing. He said that these small investments were made in the normal course of investing surplus funds in (Messa's Fair Group) Financial Services Limited.

Committee Concerned Over Ayodhya Construction

BK1007043892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 10 Jul 92

[Text] The Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs is understood to have expressed great concern over the likely impact of the reported construction activities at Ayodhya on peace and common harmony in the country. It felt that the move would be a setback to the relative peace achieved during the last one year. The committee met in New Delhi yesterday and reviewed the situation in Ayodhya. The union government is likely to make its response on this issue known in parliament today.

It may be recalled that both houses of parliament adjourned abruptly yesterday over the report of some construction work at the disputed Ayodhya complex. The Lok Sabha adjourned 40 minutes ahead of schedule

and the Rajya Sabha later in the midst of a discussion on the securities scam when non-BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] members demanded an immediate statement from the government over the development.

The Home Minister Mr. S.B. Chavan also held discussions with the non-BJP opposition parties in parliament in the wake of the latest developments in Ayodhya.

Missing Diplomat Found in Himachal Pradesh

BK1007061892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 10 Jul 92

[Text] The Russian diplomat Mr. Aleksandr Ganitch, missing since Monday [6 July], has been traced from village Dhar in Kulu District of Himachal Pradesh. He was brought to Kulu after midnight last night.

His car was found on the roadside at Pozal about 25 km from Kulu on the Kulu-Manali national highway. He had left it there while giving the slip to a bank manager who got suspicious about his identity.

The deputy commissioner of Kulu Mr. Jivanand Jivan, who met the diplomat a short while ago, told our Simla correspondent that Mr. Ganitch said he had left Delhi on his own under emotional stress because of personal and service problems. The diplomat told the police that after leaving Delhi he had first gone to Dehradun and reached Pozal via Simla. The diplomat was traced from a far-flung house located on a hilltop about four km from the roadside. The owner of the house was not present but the police suspect that the two knew each other earlier.

UNI [UNITED NEWS OF INDIA] reports that a police party has already left Delhi to bring the diplomat from Kulu to New Delhi.

Acute Shortage of Defense Spare Parts Discussed

Part I

BK0207114392 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 21 Jun 92 p 1

[By Pravin Sawhney]

[Text] In a bid to overcome the acute shortage of defence spares, a high-level delegation, armed with financial powers, is currently on a shopping tour of Russia, Poland, Hungary, and Czechoslovakia.

With no substantial spares coming from the commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), the operational preparedness of the Indian Armed Forces has been severely affected. While the field spares back-up of frontline Army and Air Force equipment has reached critically low levels, the lack of assembly kits (conditioned knock down kits) is threatening the closure of defence factories manufacturing the cutting-edge equipment, according to highly placed sources.

As various delegations to Moscow led in turn by Union Defence Minister Sharad Pawar, his deputy Krishna Kumar, foreign secretary J.N. Dixit and defence secretary N.N. Vohra made little headway through negotiations with government agencies, the present delegation has been given specific financial instructions to tide over the spares problem.

Led by Amitabh Pandey, joint secretary in the Defence Ministry and having senior representatives of the two services, the delegation has powers to make spot payments in hard currency up to a maximum of Rs 5 crore for individual spares picked up from the erstwhile Warsaw Pact countries.

In the case of Moscow, there are instructions to even lift whole equipment like tanks and armoured personnel carriers, as Russia has been unable to provide the spares, largely because of domestic turmoil. India had, in December 1991, picked up nearly 200 Soviet 130-mm guns for 'cannibalisation' of critical parts. "The panic resulting from acute spares shortage is similar to the pre-1971 war situation, when the then Army Chief Gen. Sam Maneckshaw himself went shopping abroad for spares as only 13 tanks of the 200 Vijayanta tanks with the armoured division were combat worthy," observed a senior officer.

The problem is that the defence forces are heavily dependent on the equipment from the former Soviet Union. The dependency is 100 percent in the case of land-based air defence equipment, tracked armoured vehicles and air defence missiles. Most of the tanks, artillery guns, radars and electronic equipment and the transport, helicopters and fighter air defence fleet with the Air Force are of CIS origin.

Moreover, all critical assembly kits for the indigenisation of the T-72 M1 tanks at Avadi and the armoured vehicles (BMP's) at Medak come from the CIS. "These indigenising factories which produce the cutting-edge army equipment are on the verge of closure, the production levels having already been degraded," disclosed a top source.

Surprisingly, successive delegations to the CIS being fully aware of the peculiar conditions in the Soviet defence industry, failed to grasp that the Russian Government assurances would have little effect on the defence industry moving fast towards privatisation.

In a country where 3 million of the nearly 9 million defence industry workers lost jobs within few months of the privatisation and taking into account the Kremlin's bid to turn over military industry to civilian use, it was imperative that only hard currency or direct negotiations with the factory owners would have produced results.

Moreover, with equipment factories spread over the former republics of the Soviet Union and its satellite states, they could hardly be expected to abide by Moscow dictates. The result was that though enough assurances were given by the Russian Government, it could hardly be backed by consignments of critical spares

For instance, J.N. Dixit told the press in January that India and Russia had finalised a two-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the regular supply of defence spares.

With little follow-up action on the spares issue and faced with an adverse forex problem, the Defence Ministry was even offered both critical and routine spares by private companies both in India and East European countries, on rupee payment. "The offer was that critical spares could be inspected by the ministry's quality assurance department (director general quality assurance), before the payments were made" observed a senior source.

The offer of dealing with private companies was turned down, whereas this is the normal practice the world over, according to sources. This is exactly how Pakistan (faced with U.S. spares cut-backs for its 5 frontline equipment under the Pressler Amendment), has been able to maintain its basic strategic defence sustainence.

It is common knowledge that critical defence spares worth $400 million were procured through "commercial deals" by Islamabad from the U.S. in 1991, when all military aid was officially stopped by Washington. Moreover, Pakistan has been making regular quarterly payments to General Dynamics of the U.S. for future procurement of 60 F-16 aircrafts, the sales of which have been withheld by Washington.

The grim situation caused by the lack of defence spares is an indication that the overall combat efficiency of the defence services has comedown. "Even before the services think in terms of modernisation, it is essential that there be an immediate reconstitution of the combat sustenance system, as otherwise, the inertia will cost the nation dearly," observed a high-ranking officer.

Part II

BK0207122192 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 22 Jun 92 pp 1, 7

[Text] New Delhi—The army headquarters in an unusual move has apprised the highest political authority in the country about the urgent requirement of certain "gapfilling" equipment necessary for operational preparedness, according to informed sources.

It is in the light of this extraordinarv step initiated by the Army and the serious bid to procure spares for frontline equipment of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) origin from Moscow and erstwhile Warsaw Pact countries, that the Russian offer of joint production and sale of their latest defence equipment is to be viewed.

The services headquarters have accorded top priority to sustenance of existing combat capability and plugging serious operational gaps, made more glaring after the recent Gulf War as both Iraq and India have similar cutting-edge equipment. Only then, finances permitting, can the Defence Ministry undertake the modernisation and joint-production programmes, according to top sources.

The urgent 'gap filling' items required by the Army includes electronic-counter-measures equipment, air-defence equipment, battle-field artillery and surveillance radars and the much needed self-propelled guns. "These equipment are not force-multipliers, but serious gaps in the combat capability," observed a senior officer.

Notwithstanding the spelt out defence priorities and difficult foreign exchange position, the Russian offer of joint production, at least, of critical spares for equipment being indigenised still assumes significance on three counts. First, traditionally the former Soviet Union has always kept spares on a tight leash, hence there is an opportunity to become self-sufficient through indigenisation. Second, with the CIS equipment factories scattered all over the former satellites countries and with little political coordination existing amongst them, procurement of spares will present perpetual problems. And lastly, joint production, instead ot licensed production, will give tremendous boost to defence exports, which contrary to claims, have remained marginal.

Against this background, the recently articulated defence joint-ventures offer made by Russian Ambassador Anatoly Drukov needs to be considered. Though nothing new as the offers both of sale and joint defence production with India have been received since the domestic turmoil began in the former Soviet Union in 1990, some of ministry's reactions have come under criticism from the services headquarters.

The joint-production offers have been of MiG-29 aircraft and the T-72S tanks. Also offered has been the indigenisation of most critical spares needed for the licensed production of T-72 tanks at Avadi and the armour vehicles (BMP's) at Medak. These spares production factories are scattered in the former Soviet republics and their satellite countries. For instance, the armoured vehicle factories are in Ukraine and Belarus. Moreover, Russia had even offered to sell its MiG-21 production line to India.

While joint production implies sharing finances and joint research, development and exports. Licensed production means that critical assembly kits (conditioned knock down kits) for equipment and critical components are imported and the routine spares are indigenised. India does the licensed production of the CIS T-72 tanks, armour vehicles (BMP's), MiG-21 and MiG-27M aircraft. There is not a single major army equipment, aircraft or capital naval warship that has been designed, built and armed indigenously.

Amongst the new Russian equipment for sale, the offer has been of the land-based air defence system, comprising of anti-aircraft guns Tanguska and surface-to-air missiles (SAM-11), 152mm (self-propelled) howitzers, MiG-31 and SU-27 aircraft and Tochka surface-to-surface missiles. While the frontline Tanguskas and SAM-11 (indigenous name Ganga) have already replaced the old Shilkas and Kvadrats with the Indian Army, Tochka missile which has more range than the U.S.

Lance missile, was not procured in view of the expectancy of early induction of the indigenous Prithvi missile.

By not accepting the joint-production of critical spares needed for our licensed-production equiment at low prices, when the Russian Government was endeavouring to reconvert the military industry to civilian use, an opportunity has already been missed, according to services officers. Now, Moscow under pressure from its defence industry is already considering exports of defence equipment to earn foreign exchange. "Any joint-productions now will now work out to be more expensive,"observe sources.

Moreover, with a requirement of about 6,800 aircraft in the Third World in the next ten years, the purchase of the MiG-21 production line at throwaway prices would have tremendously boosted exports. The indigenous MiG-21 Bis with improved avionics and look-down radar is far more attractive than the Chinese F-7 aircraft, which has a good export market.

It is, however, pointed out that the defence services by not purchasing new Soviet equipment have learnt a useful lesson of the recent Gulf war. Iraq equipment; with its disparate assortment of weaponry had become counter-productive. "More types of weapons implies poor maintenance as problems of spares procurement and logistics increase substantially," observed a senior officer.

The requirement is now of modernisation of existing armament. Simply put it means having night and day and all weather firing capabilities and devices to optimally utilise the existing weaponry.

Editorial on Shortage of Defense Spare Parts

BK0807103992 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 25 Jun 92 p 8

[Editorial: "Delays and Decisions"]

[Text] The departure of a Ministry of Defence (MoD) delegation, empowered with authority to purchase off the shelf, would raise the hopes of many in the armed forces and others concerned with the nation's defence needs. Unlike in the past, the Ministry has not sent its envoys amidst fanfare, and neither are they financially powerless. This is welcome, not the least for the fact that at this given moment India's ability to sustain its military potential is woefully low. With the delegation armed with the powers it has been given, there is reason to believe that sufficient headway would be made in tiding over the current spare parts problem that is proving critical to the Army and the Air Force. The life of vital equipment is being reduced owing to the non-availability of spares to make them operational. Equipment, whatever its level of technology, is of worth only if it is used. Having the best in the world is of no advantage and induces no sense of security if the most cannot be extracted from the equipment for want of spares. It is therefore imperative that MoD succeeds on this shopping spree.

Purchase, however, will provide only temporary relief. For the future a long-term and viable policy needs to be implemented. The spares crisis, which seriously affects the nation's armed forces, is yet another reminder that something is seriously wrong with those entrusted with the task of formulating security policies. This is not the first occasion for India to be afflicted with a crisis of such magnitude. When war clouds were approaching Kashmir in the spring of 1990, matters did not come to a head only because Pakistan was in a similar bind. They have adopted procurement policies which make the most of the prevailing environment. India, on the other hand, is bound by the bureaucratic inertia inherent in the system. Decisions, reactive at best, are delayed until a crisis looms, and provide only short-term answers. Such delays undermine the confidence of soldiers, a price no country can afford to pay. And they also ensure that when purchases are finally made, the country ends up paying more. A realisation that there is a link between spares and production has to come if a lasting solution is to be implemented. There are some systems in India's inventory that can be economically produced within the country. An optimistic estimate of the country's defence production would put it at 30 percent of capacity; shoddy management and militant unions are responsible for this. Indigenisation of no system produced in India is more than 45 percent. While considering any production offer, joint or otherwise, one must remember that in the past production has been hampered by the denial of certain materials on the one hand, and slothfulness of those that oversee it on the other. This once again poses the question as to who decides India's defence requirements, a generic bureaucracy or the users?

Iran

Israeli 'Inability' To Control Intifadah Noted

LD0907203892 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1830 GMT 9 Jul 92

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Under circumstances when Palestinian Muslim people, through demonstrations and protest are continuing intifadah, yesterday Palestine's popular uprising entered its 57th month. Confession to inability to by the most prominent hands involved in crushing the uprising so far is among the significant points which, without a doubt, cannot be ignored. [sentence as heard]

Leader of the leftist faction of the Labor Party, Yitzhaq Rabin, who has now attained an eye-catching victory over his rightist rival, has been one of designers of crushing the uprising as the former Israeli war minister, who due to failure in repression of intifadah, stepped down from his post. But the significant point is that Rabin's recent stand, despite optimism by some Arab factions recording a milder policymaking by him, in fact has depicted the future policy of confining the defenseless Palestinian people and the beginning of his coming to power.

In this connection Yitzhaq Rabin says: Those who think we will not adopt the iron-fist policy towards Palestinians are absolutely mistaken.

Rabin's remarks, which have been considered as a warning to Muslims in occupied lands, raises this question as to why the Israeli regime considers any kind of rights and different cases just for the Zionists and does not take into account the Palestinian nations whose territory is under the occupation of Zionists after four decades? In other words, world public opinion asks: Why does the Zionist regime preserve itself the right to occupy a land, settle emigres with various nationalities in different parts of those regions from the four corners of the world, occupy lands and houses of Palestinian people and, on top of all, equip emigres with arms so in case of a suspicious case, target Palestinians and how come it does not feel itself committed to any international ratifications or world conventions and is right in all these cases while the oppressed and defenseless Palestinian people do not even have the right to defend themselves?

At present, with their coming to power of the Labor Party, some viewpoints are expressed regarding performance of the party and change in policy making in Israel. Meanwhile, some other political observers believe one cannot imagine such a bright outlook in this connection, for they believe simultaneity [as heard] of stepping up raids in southern Lebanon and violent crushing in the occupied land clearly indicate the good will and claims made by new Israeli rulers, especially the leader of the Labor Party, who on the very onset, rejected pull-back from occupied lands and Golan Heights and in case of coalition with Tzomet rightist party, it is also likely that in continuation of policies of the rightist faction on making of townships in those regions still continue.

Anyhow, in the 57th month of Palestine's popular uprising and on the verge of formation of a new government in the occupied Palestine, the three movements of Hamas, Islamic Jihad, and United Leadership of Popular Uprising have called on the people to continue their struggle and have expressed pessimism toward future Israeli rulers.

As quoted by leader of Palestine's Islamic Jihad, Palestine cannot be traded nor dismembered.

SAIRI Warns of Attempts To Destroy Iraq

LD0907153992 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 9 Jul 92

[Text] Hojjat-ol Eslam val-Moslemin Sayyed Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, the head of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq [SAIRI], met a number of Kurdish tribal personalities and leaders from northern Iraq yesterday and warned them against attempts by that country's enemies to disintegrate Iraq.

Iraqi Refugees Leave Under UN Supervision

LD0707092192 Tehran IRNA in English 0757 GMT 7 Jul 92

[Text] Ahvaz (Khuzestan), July 7, IRNA—After a three-month lull in repatriation, 14 more Iraqi refugees left for their homeland by crossing the Shalamcheh border point in this southern province.

The return of the latest batch of Arab refugees, who had sought shelter in the Iranian cities of Hoveyzeh, Shushtar and Khorramshahr, was supervised by members of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) based in the Iraqi southern city of Basra.

Some 1.4 million Iraqis, mostly Kurds, sought refuge in Iran in March-April 1991 to escape the bloodbath ordered by Saddam Husayn to quell the popular uprising against his rule in the wake of the Persian Gulf war.

Iraq's Arab Shiite majority was, however, not so lucky as the Kurds in the north, both in terms of safe escape and international aid and concern, with only 70,000 managing to cross the border into Iran in the south.

Hundreds of thousands of Arabs were massacred by the Ba'thists while an equal number was driven into the dense marshes of southern Iraq where they still continue to hold out against massive odds, in the absence of international concern for their worsening plight.

According to local officials here, a million of the Iraqi refugees have since returned to Iraq. Arrangements have also been made for the remaining refugees in Khuzestan who wish to return to Iraq, to do so, only through the Shalamcheh border point. More refugees are expected to go home in view of the latest repatriation.

Postal Services With Iraq Resumed After 12 Years

LD0807090192 Tehran IRNA in English 0734 GMT 8 Jul 92

[Text] Kermanshah, July 8, IRNA—After a 12-year pause, the first postal package was exchanged between Iran and Iraq Wednesday through the 'Khosravi' border point in this Western province, formerly called 'Bakhtaran,' announced a provincial post official.

Postal services between the two countries was halted after the start of the Iraqi aggression in September 1980 which lasted eight long years.

The official told IRNA that postal services were resumed following a request to Iran by the Iraqi Foreign Ministry.

The exchange of mail destined for the other country is to be carried by the two countries' post representatives twice a week on Sundays and Wednesdays at the Khosravi point, he said.

'Martial Law' in Javanrud; Curfew Imposed

NC1007075392 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1730 GMT 9 Jul 92

[Text] The clerical regime recently established a type of martial law in Javanrud. In addition, it has imposed a curfew beginning at 2200 and ordered its men to shoot anyone on the street after that time.

Recently, the regime has also been trying to identify arms dealers by using its mercenaries in Javanrud. These mercenaries, who receive cash from the regime, tell suspected dealers that they want to buy arms. If the dealer says he can help out the mercenary, he is identified and reported to the regime.

Opposition Group Executes 3 Regime 'Spies'

NC0807083392 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1730 GMT 7 Jul 92

[Report issued by the Social Committee of the Democratic Party of Kordestan of Iran; place and date not given]

[Text] After a ruling by the Revolution Court of the Kurdish People, which was approved by the Political Bureau, three people were punished on 1 July for their treachery and crimes. The names and the charges are as follows:

1. Yusef Hadigol, son of Rahman from Oshneviyeh, 21-years-old, single. A former Democratic Party of Kordestan of Iran [DPKI] peshmerga, he was found guilty of cooperating with the regime's intelligence services and planting mines at the headquarters of the (Kelashin) force. The mines damaged a DPKI vehicle. He confessed to his crimes.

2. As'ad Sheykhnezhad-Mozhdi, son of Qader from the village of (Khalifendian) in Naqadeh, married. He was found guilty of cooperating with the regime, spying on peshmerga movements, and betraying a party committee member in Sepid Sang by leading Revolution Guards to the place where he was staying. Fortunately, our fellow combatant killed one Revolution Guard and forced the rest to flee. As'ad confessed that the regime promised to pay him 3 million rials.

3. Seyyed Mohammad Zare'i, alias ('Omar Azhami), son of 'Ali Shaleh from the village of 'Ali Aqa in the (Kalafsu) area of Divandarreh, single. He was found guilty of committing treason for the regime's suppressive forces over a 10-year period, participating in most of the battles against the peshmerga and in the task force operations in Divandarreh, and betraying members and supporters of the DPKI and other organizations. He travelled to various parts of Kordestan to spy on regime opponents. He also worked in brick factories for a time to betray the Kurds working in these factories. He completed two espionage courses in Piranshahr and Sanandaj. He was also charged with accepting a mission from the regime to infiltrate the peshmerga, carry out subversive activities in party headquarters, and assassinate party members and peshmerga. Armed robbery and participation in several highway robberies were among the other charges brought against him. The treacherous Seyyed Mohammad Zare'i confessed to all of his crimes.

We hope that the execution of these three treacherous spies will be a lesson for those who have not yet decided to stop betraying their people. Those who betray their nation and its interests should think of the consequences of their actions. We hope that this will be our last warning.

Moscow Accused of Weakening CIS States

LD0907084892 Tehran IRNA in English 0629 GMT 9 Jul 92

[Text] Tehran, July 9, IRNA—Moscow wants to couple Russia's period of economic crisis with instability in other former Soviet Republics, so that the latter will remain weaker than the former, less solid and systematized, and dismembered, the 'TEHRAN TIMES' said Thursday.

Editorializing on the summit meet of the so-called Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) concluded in Moscow yesterday, the English language daily said that the CIS leaders may have essayed to present the Moscow conference as successful, but in reality the CIS states have "common contradictions" instead of "common interests."

"Differences coupled with violence—be it in the domestic form such as what is going on in Tajikistan—or in the form of border disputes—such as what is taking place between Armenia and Azerbaijan—reflect instability and the spread of this instability to other republics in the days to come," it pointed.

Noting that "an ailing economy and the absence of the needed political growth are among the major problems besetting these communities," the paper added that these communities felt they could resolve the difficulties by merely relying on "ethnic nationalism" but that in practice they "gave rise to certain problems and further revived the old animosity of the previous centuries."

"Moscow too seems pleased and satisfied with instability pervading these republics." "The greater these instabilities and disorders become, the more they will point to the absence of a developed political culture in these communities." "This, in itself, can account for the several-decade-long domination of the Russians over other ethnic groups and can, in fact, diminish the burden of guilt and inhumane deeds of Stalinism," concluded the editorial.

Editorial on Afghan Threat, Unified Islamic Bloc

LD0907083892 Tehran IRNA in English 0742 GMT 9 Jul 92

[Text] Tehran, July 9, IRNA—The turmoil in Afghanistan could destabilize regional security and stoke the

embers of Muslim separatist movements stretching across South and Central Asia, feared a daily here today, adding that the only solution was a unified Islamic bloc to keep the region strong and intact.

Anarchy in Afghanistan could set off a whole series of explosions in the region, the editoral in the English language daily KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL said.

It added that Pakistan as the country most concerned in the region about unrest in the landlocked nation of 16 million people, "has been trying to broker an agreement among the guerrillas which will give it the first friendly government in Kabul in nearly 45 years."

"Such a government could facilitate Islamabad to have access to the Muslim-dominated newly-independent Central Asian states and give it strategic depth against India with which Pakistan has fought three wars."

According to the paper, "it is also feared that an Afghan ethnic war could resurrect a movement for 'Pashtunistan', a homeland uniting Afghan and Pakistan ethnic Pashtuns. It could also fan separatist fires in the troubled southern province of Sindh."

It underlined that predominantly-Hindu India is particularly anxious that the unrest in Afghanistan does not spill over into Jammu and Kashmir, where local combatants are fighting New Delhi's rule in India's only Muslim-majority state.

"But if only a unified Islamic bloc in the region covering the Central Asian states, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Iran and Saudi Arabia could be established, all Western influence and especially that of the Great Satan could be staved off," the editorial concluded.

Afghanistan Applies for Membership in ECO

LD0907102592 Tehran IRNA in English 0807 GMT 9 Jul 92

[Text] Tehran, July 9, IRNA—The Afghan charge d'affaires here, Assadollah Keshtmand, Wednesday hand-delivered his government's request for membership at the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) to ECO secretary general, Iran's 'Alireza Salari.

The formal application was signed by the foreign minister of the interim government of Afghanistan.

The Afghan request will most likely be approved at the forthcoming meeting of ECO ministers. The organization, founded by Iran, Pakistan and Turkey, will then have nine members. The Republics of Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan joined ECO earlier this year during the Tehran Summit.

During Tehran summit, Afghanistan had applied for membership at ECO but its application had been turned down because of the then unpopular Communist rule in that country.

Application of governments for membership at the organization have to be submitted to an assembly of ECO ministers by the secretary general of the organization.

New Cuban, Vatican Envoys Present Credentials

LD0807141792 Tehran IRNA in English 0944 GMT 8 Jul 92

[Text] Tehran, July 8, IRNA—Two new ambassadors, Enrique Trujillo Rapallo of Cuba and Romeo Panchi Roli of the Vatican, presented copies of their credentials to Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati in separate meetings here Wednesday.

The Cuban ambassador described as "fundamental and strategic" Havana-Tehran relations and underlined readiness of the officials of his country for further expansion of bilateral ties with Iran. Velayati also termed Iran-Cuba relations as "firm and excellent" and called for further expansion of bilateral ties.

In the other meeting, the new ambassador of the Vatican in Iran, pointed to common grounds between Islam and Christianity as well as what he called "historic" [as received] between Iran and the Vatican. Velayati also referred to common points between the two religions and described as "fruitful" joint sessions of Muslim and Christian scholars. He reiterated expansion of relations between the two sides especially in the cultural fields.

The city of Vatican in the Italian Peninsula is the seat of the pope the leader of the Catholic sect of Christianity.

Governor General Appointed for Renamed Province

LD0807212392 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1939 GMT 8 Jul 92

[Text] The cabinet met on Wednesday afternoon. During this session, important internal and external events were reviewed. Then proposals by executive organs were raised and some were adopted by the cabinet.

During the session, Mr. Gholamreza Sahra'iyan was chosen governor general of Kermanshahan Province [formerly Bakhtaran Province] on the recommendation of the interior minister and with the approval of the cabinet. The cabinet praised the services of Mr. Neku'i, the former governor general of the province.

Single-Rate Foreign Currency for Exports Studied

LD0607212492 Tehran IRNA in English 1123 GMT 6 Jul 92

[Text] Tehran, July 6, IRNA—Minister of Commerce 'Abdol Hoseyn Vahaji here Monday underlined adoption of a single-rate foreign currency policy regarding exports and stressed that the government would certainly take measures in this connection.

The minister made the remark in a nationwide gathering of commerce and industries managers held at the permanent site of the Tehran international trade fairs ground this morning.

He regretted the fact that commercial advertisement was still in its initial stages in Iran and did not match the standards to attract the attention of consumers.

Vahaji said that export of agricultural and traditional products surmounted the set target last year by making an increase of 115 and 139 percent respectively. However, in the export of industrial and seasonal goods, he added, only 26 and 53 percent of the forecast was materialized respectively.

Speaking at the same session, Minister of Industries Mohammad Reza Ne'matzadeh underscored expansion of non-oil exports, emphasising that import of non-essential goods should be curbed.

Another speaker at the session was deputy mines and metals minister and head of the Qeshm Free Trade Zone, 'Ali Shams Ardakani, who stressed that any stagnation in economic competition would mean weakening of the economy in general. The gathering will end Tuesday.

Single-Rate Not Solution

LD0807135892 Tehran IRNA in English 0812 GMT 8 Jul 92

[Text] Tehran, July 8, IRNA—The problem of industrial exports will not be resolved by merely adopting a single-rate foreign currency system even though several reasons necessitate it in the entire system, said a morning daily Wednesday.

'TEHRAN TIMES' made the comment in response to Commerce Minister 'Abdol Hoseyn Vahaji's recent remarks that unless a single-rate foreign currency policy on exports is not adopted, Iran will not be able to compete in international markets.

"This weakness is especially visible in the industrial sector. The country's export goods have fulfilled only 26 percent of the anticipated items specified in the first five-year plan. This cannot be solely justified by saying that events turned out in this way as there was more than one foreign currency rate in the country," said the English language daily.

Iran's industry has not been reconstructed yet due to the 8-year long Iraqi war, and since most of the country's key industries are run by the government or affiliated institutions, two problems are still facing the industrial sector: Mismanagement and financial corruption especially in the field of foreign purchases, it said.

"If a revolutionary approach is not adopted vis-a-vis such malpractices, it will undoubtedly be catastrophic for the entire community and for the revolution as well..."

"Without a tinge of doubt, the commerce minister should consider that the problem of industrial exports will not be resolved by merely adopting a single-rate foreign currency...an overhaul of the entire system is called for and pretty urgently too," the daily concluded.

RESALAT Reports 16 Jun Majles Session

PM0907151692 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 17 Jun 92 p 5

[Unattributed report: "Report on the Open Session of the Majles"]

[Excerpts] Legal and Parliamentary Section—The eighth open session of the Majles was held yesterday chaired by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Nateq Nuri. At this session, following speeches by deputies from Kerman, Neyshabur, Shahriyar and Behbahan, Mr. Nageq Nuri gave a speech commemorating all Islamic martyrs. Then the Majles went into session.

The first pre-agenda speaker was Mohammad Baqer Mahdavi Kermani, deputy from Kerman, who started his speech by commenting on the lofty position of the Majles. He said:

The Majles is a very lofty and respected forum. It is the people's home. We deputies are representatives of the people and we are here, in this holy place, with their vote and their permission. They have trusted us to come to the house of the people. We have a responsibility toward this trust. Our responsibility is great. One responsibility is to our constituencies, and the other is to Islamic Iran. We must defend their rights in exchange for their votes. We must not ignore their security or social and cultural issues.

He then said: The respected government which thinks of itself as a servant of the people must be exactly that. It must strive to ensure the people's well-being. The late imam (may his passage to paradise be expedited) said that the Majles is the only body that all other authorities must obey. Now that the representatives of this people and their trusted deputies are present, why is it that government officials pay no attention to these elected deputies who are eager to serve? Why are their requests ignored? Why are you, who claim to be followers of the imam and the leader, you indifferent to the wishes of the majority of the deputies?

The Friday imam in each province is a senior person and is a representative of the jurisconsult and deserves special respect. Why is it that when it comes to making decisions, the Friday imam and the Majles deputies from those areas know about the situation in their own areas better than anyone else? This itself is a great help to you government officials. If you consult with them, dissatisfaction will disappear and the people will not grow pessimistic about the revolution and the government. Of course we must note that tensions exist sometimes in various corners of the country. These are without doubt a result of these same issues that cause dissatisfaction. They come about because of the lack of attention from

those who have some power in those regions. I warn you that if there are no consultations with the Friday imams and the provincial deputies, when it comes to choosing provincial managers, if decisions are made for selfish reasons, it will not be in the interest of the government, the people, or society.

He said: Deputies must carry out their legal and religious duties so that they will not be questioned by God. He added: All officials' and deputies' wealth has to be calculated before and after taking office. It seems this law was only for the late imam (may his passage to paradise be expedited.) He went along with this law so that the laws of the land would not be ignored and also to serve as an example and to open the doors to other officials. That great person did what was necessary and announced to the Islamic people the list of his belongings and possessions right at the beginning of the revolution. But we can see now that this law has been shelved. The deputy from Kerman added: It used to be said during the first years of the revolution that if a senior official or a government figure is questioned or tried, the whole revolution will be challenged. The opposite is true. Our revolution will only be challenged if I have power and if I use that power and if that false power is not stopped somehow. We must not say that if we try someone the government or the revolution will be challenged. It is not so. That is when Islam and our revolution will grow more and attract the people even further toward the regime.

With regard to the Foundation for the Oppressed and the Victims (disabled) he said: The imam (may his passage to paradise be expedited) saw these foundations as necessary to provide comfort for people throughout the country, especially in deprived areas. But unfortunately we can see that these foundations have become very powerful and wealthy companies and cartels whose income increases daiy. For example, the Foundation for the Oppressed and the Victims is now a large capitalistic company. With the huge capital and facilities that it has, it buys valuables and luxury items in bulk and then sells these at market prices to the people. This causes inflation in society and fuels inflation. If with the facilities that it has, it decides to buy goods cheaply and then sells them to people at reasonable prices, it will break the high prices and power inflation.

'Ali Marvi, deputy from Neyshabur was the second pre-agenda speaker. He said: I ask all friends to look deeply into the message of the great leader to the fourth majles and to use these clear guidelines as models for our work. They include keeping the following principles in mind when organizing programs for the country: piety, Islamic behavior in speeches and comments, coordination in our decisionmaking, matching the general direction of the Majles with the major needs of the people, looking into the principle of getting rid of poverty and liberating the poor and the oppressed. There must also be support for the government, unity and cooperation with the government.

The speaker then talked about the president's speech at the 'Id al-Fitr sermons and said: I ask all government officials to speed up their work when it comes to dealing with the public and to show the necessary attention to detail and sympathy worthy of the regime, the self-sacrificing people, the fighters, the volunteers, the disabled, and the respected families of the martyrs so that there will be no grounds for excuses.

The deputy from Neyshabur said that one of the most vital needs of our society is growth in the area of our cultural identity worthy of the goals of the revolution. He added: We must pay more attention to the affairs of young people and fill their free time. Giving special attention to education, teachers, and students will prepare the necessary groundwork for this important task.

Marvi then read out sections of the speech made by the president to the people of Neyshabur, and he stressed:

Keeping in mind the comments made by the respected president Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the appropriate officials are expecting to take the required steps as soon as possible to establish a university in that town.

Hasan Qashqavi, Deputy From Shahriyar and Robat Karim

Hasan Qashqavi, deputy from Shahriyar and Robat Karim was the third pre-agenda speaker who used three minutes left of the time allocated to the deputy from Neyshabur. He commented on the large-scale maneuvers undertaken by volunteer jihad forces and the launching of several projects by the Construction Jihad. He said: Last week we saw the large-scale maneuvers, called the "al-Aare'a," undertaken by the self-sacrificing jihad volunteers, these revolutionary soldiers of the great leader in the region. I sincerely thank the Hezbollah ummah and the popular mobilization for this. We have also recently seen the start of several projects by the Construction Jihad. I sincerely thank the two wings of the revolution, the IRGC [Islamic Revolution Guard Corps] and the jihad.

He added: We are currently witnessing the rise of Islam throughout the world and the plot by world aggression to crush the Muslims, such as the plots in Bosnia-Hercegovina and Nagorno-Karabakh and the continuing plots to crush the revolutionary people of Lebanon by the agents of the Zionist regime and the Zionists themselves. I feel that a further strengthening of the revolutionary organizations, a strengthening of popular mobilization, and a general awakening of the Muslim masses can be felt.

On the subject out-of-control migration to towns bordering Tehran he said: Keeping in mind the many problems that exist in the towns bordering Tehran, we are seeing the severe and out-of-control migration of people to these areas. We see the destruction of farmland and orchards in places such as Shahriyar, Robat Karim, Akbarabad, Soltanabad and so forth. We can honestly

say that each month several hectares of agricultural land are destroyed. In addition to problems caused by lack of space for education, transportation, a shortage of hospitals for an area with a population of 700,000, and a thousand other problems, we are seeing crimes caused by migration that is out of control. We expect the holy fourth Majles, especially the commission in charge of councils and internal issues, to draft specific programs, and regard these as top priority so that first of all the migration will stop and second, so that runaway building would cease. The third step is to prevent other things which may cause tensions in the future.

The deputy from Shahriyar and Robat Karim concluded by saying: Even though there are many new deputies in the Majles, it must not be assumed that they lack experience. This factor should not prevent them from being elected and it should not bring about a situation in which only the older deputies will be used. While we respect these for their experience and while we admit that they have priority in many situations, the new talents and powers should be used, and this is something that is worthy of greater attention.

Lotf-ollah Zare'i Qanavati, deputy from Behbahan gave a speech as the last pre-agenda speaker. He said: The glory that is ours, deputies and officials, in this holy regime has come about because of the people's sacrifices. We have to be proud of the fact that we are serving them.

We must be aware that the red color of the seats in this Majles is the color of the blood of the martyrs of the revolution. The glory and respect that is ours mirrors the respect that God has for the martyrs.

These people revolted in accordance with Islam and the Koran and upon orders of their imam who was always in revolt. They brought down the palaces of cruelty on the heads of the oppressors. Now they want us to continue along the path of the imam and the imam's rightful heir. They want us to continue the fight between poverty and wealth until we see the destruction of the leech-like capitalists, those who gather wealth, those who love the materialistic world and their aggressive masters led by the Great Satan United States. They want us to continue this struggle until the oppressed gain victory and until there is justice throughout the world. We must remember that it was these same oppressed masses who responded to the call of their imam, who went to welcome martyrdom and finally drove the American army of Saddam all the way to the gates of Basra. They safeguarded the holy Islamic revolution with their bodies and with their blood.

Now the children of those same martyrs, these volunteer jihad men, have taken their lives in their hands and are the lions of the battlefronts. They will go wherever they are needed as the most trusted forces of support for the Islamic Republic and will guard the Islamic revolution.

Events in various corners of the country, especially those in Mashhad proved that it is these same forces at the fronts and the same self-sacrificing jihad volunteers and soldiers of the imam who have to pay the dearest price. He added: I suggest that we do everything possible to organize the mosques and resistance groups and keep them active. We must provide the military and the cultural facilities needed for our dear ones. That way we can be sure that our blood-soaked revolution will be secure. While we must show respect for the other Islamic armed forces, our only real support comes from these dear ones.

The people expect a lot from the fourth majles. They want to see the achievement of social justice, control over inflation and high prices, the removal of predjudice and injustice, and a war against the corrupt and damaging imported culture. They want us to look into the situation of the poor and deprived areas, and they want us to prevent ostentatious attitudes. Without a doubt one of the just demands of the people is the achievement of a revolution in our bureaucracy.

I believe that the government of Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the respected president, is making every effort to reconstruct the country in various fields. Thank God it has also achieved considerable gains. But the poor and dedicated people, who are the most vulnerable in society and who are the real owners of the revolution, expect to see certain measures aiong the road of reconstruction to impose control and supervision, and moderating steps such as the use of subsidies and pricing so that their backs will not be broken under the weight of heavy prices and inflation.

I accept that figures speak loudly. They show a huge improvement in the affairs of the country, and they show the positive movement of the government along the road of achieving its goals and achieving economic balance. But we have a long way to go, and there are many side effects that can come about as a result of a fundamental reconstruction of the country's economic, social, and cultural affairs. Therefore, there is the fear that the pressure from these side effects will go beyond the tolerance of the self-sacrificing people. It is possible that unpleasant tensions can arise in society—tensions which will smoothe the way for thugs and counterrovlutionaries to abuse the situation.

The deputy from Behbahan continued: In these elections the people have chosen deputies who are thoughtful, wise, and inventive, just as was expected of them. They expect these deputies to paint a clear picture of the country's future leaving aside political games and damaging factionalism and competition, in coordination with other officials. This does not mean that we can use the excuse that construction causes inflation and has many side effects. It does not mean we have to forget price control and supervision, adding impetus to the profitmakers, those who amass wealth, those who love wealth, capitalists, and those comfortable people who feel no pain.

I even want to say that there has to be some change in previous policies. Offices, revolutionary organizations,

and ministries do not have to compete with the private sector in presenting services and goods.

Nobody denies the truth that municipalities have to obtain taxes or that the government should be allowed to present goods and services at least at the finished price. But the point is that if there is no control or supervision, the net result is that prices will go up, and the extra burden of pressure will fall onto the poor people and the vulnerable classes who make up the majority in society.

Zare'i Qanavati stressed: We are expected to have a Majles that is strong and independent and coordinated with the government. There is no doubt that if all officials in the country act in a coordinated manner, the net result would be a better regime. This coordination has to be two-sided. The government must also coordinate its actions and path with the representatives of the people. The deputies themselves have the necessary coordination with the representatives of the people because the respected deputies have the people's trust and are well informed when it comes to the resources and facilities, especially the manpower, in their own regions.

With regard to the issues in his constituency, he said: In Khuzestan, thank God, all the forces have coordinated with one another with goodwill so that they can find solutions for the ills of the province and make an effort to make up for the time lost during the war, so that perhaps they can repair the war's damages. The Friday imams, the deputies, the governor general, and other forces have decided to cooperate and coordinate with one another. According to information received the respected governor general has done a lot of research into the various aspects of the province and has made up his mind to work hard. It would be a good thing if the respected Interior Ministry now strengthens this unity and coordination.

It is obvious that a quick changeover of the managers in the province would cause irreparable damage to the healthy trend of the work that is being done. Stability in management could be useful when it comes to recognizing problems and using experiences gained, and such stability is a valuable asset to be used in the path toward progress. He concluded by detailing the problems faced by his constituency. [passage omitted]

Majles Ratifications

The plan to correct Item 35 of the Majles internal regulations was approved by the deputies.

According to a report filed by RESALAT's parliamentary correspondent on yesterday's open session of the Majles, item 35 and four footnotes were passed.

Item 35—After receiving the preliminary reports from the branches concerning the candidates for Majles commissions, the leadership of the Majles will make copies of the report and distribute them among the deputies. Forty-eight hours after the distribution, the branches will once again meet and keeping in mind the distributed report, they will look into the priorities. They will then choose their candidates for each commission and report this to the leadership of the Majles.

If the total number of people introduced from the branches for each commission is more than required, the people who have been selected for each commission will hold a meeting with a member of the Majles leadership group so that they may reach an agreement over the people required for each commission.

If there is no agreement, the people needed in each commission will take part in a meeting with the heads of the branches and the leadership. Priorities such as expertise, experience, and past work in a particular commission will be considered after which members will be elected by a majority vote.

Footnote 1—The leaders of branches and the members of the leadership group who volunteer to serve on a commission are not allowed to participate in the joint meetings and are not allowed to vote for themselves.

Footnote 2—Lots will be drawn among those who receive an equal number of votes, whose membership of a particular commission would increase the numbers in that commission above the allowed maximum.

Footnote 3—Those who in accordance with this bill do not get elected to the commission of their choice, will be placed on the commission they accepted as a second choice provided there are not enough candidates with the required priorities for that commission.

If at this stage there are still more people than are needed on the commission, the previously mentioned priorities will be considered and candidates will be chosen by a majority vote from the Majles leadership and the branch leaders for the commission picked as their second choice.

Those who do not get elected to the commission picked as their second choice, will be chosen for another Majles commission if elected by a majority vote taken at the joint meeting mentioned earlier.

Footnote 4—This bill will have to be implemented from the day that it is ratified.

The Majles session continued with the acceptance of the credentials of Seyyed Mohammad Naqba'i from Tuyserkan and Faramarz Golshani from Rudbar. There was also a vote on the election of Majles deputies to serve as observers on the commissions mentioned in the footnotes of the 1992 budget bill. The results of the votes are as follows:

Morteza Nabavi and engineer Mohammad Hashem Rahbari elected as observers on the economic commission. Hasan Amin-lu and engineer Seyyed Kamal-eddin Shahriyari elected as observers on the credentials commission. Seyyed Esma'il Davudi Shamsi and Engineer Mahmud Jamali elected as observers for the meeting of the commission in charge of allocating hard currency.

Engineer Mohammad Mojedara and Engineer Reza 'Abdollahi elected as observers of the activities of the commission in charge of purchases.

Also according to a vote some other deputies were elected to take part in commissions, councils, and executive organizations. The list is as follows:

Javad Angaji and 'Abbas 'Ali Zali elected as observers of the manner in which Clause H of Footnote 29 of the law concerning the first plan for economic, social, and cutural growth in the Islamic Republic is implemented. Seyyed 'Ali Naqi Khamushi elected as observer on the commission in charge of safeguarding and expanding Iranian industry. Mr. Hasan Kamran Dastjerdi elected as observer on the supervisory body for the press. Mohammad Reza Bahmani and Mohammad Nabovati elected as observers in the group supervising cash reserves. Mr. Seyyed Mostafa Seyyed Hashemi elected as observer in the supervisory body in charge of printing. Seyyed 'Ali Akbar Musavi Hoseyni and 'Abbas 'Ali' 'Amid Zanjani elected as members of the supervisory council of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Hoseyn Irani and Hashem Bani-Hashemi as members of the supreme council that looks into consumer habits.

Also during the session yesterday the bill to correct sections of the law dealing with the establishment of nonprofit schools dated 7 October 1988 was adopted. The Majles will have its next open session at 0800 next Sunday.

On the Majles Sidelines

The Majles has a superior position and a huge responsibility. Along with this high position the respected deputies need to have purity, morality, and sincerity.

Keeping these points in mind, a group of the respected deputies has written a letter to the Majles speaker. Here is a text of the letter:

After the leader, the Majles has the most basic and vital role in running and guiding the country. This will not happen in a correct manner unless each deputy acts in a correct way. It will not be possible unless there is piety, obedience to the words of God, and obedience to the words of the innocent ones [the imams and their descendants]—peace be unto them. It is therefore recommended that more attention be paid to the holy duty of being a deputy. In order to provide adequate immunity for the deputies in the face of dangers and deviations, the lessons entitled "The Behavior of Deputies" by Ayatollah Javadi Amoli should be organized on a continuous basis for all deputies durng the term of the fourth Majles.

Pakistan

Germay To Finance 'Important Projects'

BK0807141492 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 8 Jul 92

[Text] Germany will provide 1,700 million rupees to finance a number of important projects in Pakistan. An agreement was signed in Islamabad today by the two countries on the conclusion of the three-day annual bilateral negotiations. The additional secretary, economic affairs division and Dr. (W. Pills) leader of the German delegation signed the agreement on behalf of their respective governments. The major projects to be financed out of financial assistance are the Tarbela-Mangla watershed management project, primary health care program in northern areas, second family health project, and a telecommunication project. In addition, Bonn has agreed to provide a grant of 491 million rupees for immplementation of a number of technical assistance projects. They have also agreed to provide 372 million rupees for food aid, scholarships, and NGO's [Nongovernmental Organizations] during the current calendar year.

Multiple Cooperation Pact Signed With Uzbekistan

BK0907115892 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 9 Jul 92

[Text] Pakistan and Uzbekistan have signed a memorandum of understanding envisaging bilateral cooperation in multiple fields. The memorandum was signed in Tashkent by Pakistan's secretary of communications and Uzbek (?highways) minister, Mr. (Yurisov). It envisages possibility of production of passenger railway carriage in Pakistan according to the design and specification provided by Central Asian railways of Uzbekistan.

Army Spokesman on 'Operation Cleanup' in Sindh

BK0907144492 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 9 Jul 92

[Text] The corps commander of V [as heard] Corps, Lieutenant General Nasir Akhtar, called on the prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, in Karachi. He remained with the prime minister for some time and briefed him about the progress of Operation Cleanup in the province. Present on the occasion were the Sindh governor, Mr. Mahmud A. Haroon; the Sindh chief minister, Syed Muzaffar Hussain Shah; and federal interior minister, Chaudhary Shujat Hussain.

An Army spokesman briefing the newsmen in Karachi said the Army will complete the task assigned to it in respect of Operation Cleanup in Sindh and will not leave the people of the province unprotected. He repudiated the impression that the Operation Cleanup is aimed at MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement]-bashing and termed it as absolutely incorrect. It has been made clear time and again that the operation was not against any group, party or community, he added. He said that Sindh Province as a whole was languishing under tyranny of dacoits [robbers], terrorists and criminals which have wrecked peace of law-abiding citizens. There was also virtual breakdown of law and order in the province before the operation. He said after the start of the operation, overall crime graph in Sindh has come down and people in villages, towns and cities are healing a sigh of relief.

Sharif Pledges Aid to New Afghan Prime Minister

BK0907155192 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 9 Jul 92

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif has greeted 'Abdol Sabur Farid on assuming office as the prime minister of the Islamic state of Afghanistan. In a message, Mohammad Nawaz Sharif expressed confidence that the special relations and brotherly ties between the two countries and their people will further strengthen and stabilize under the sagacious leadership of the new Afghan prime minister. The prime minister assured 'Abdol Sabur Farid that the government and people of Pakistan will wholeheartedly cooperate in establishing peace and stability in Afghanistan and will provide every possible assistance in the vital task of reconstruction and rehabilitation of the war-ravaged country.